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Bezeq slashes US rates

Page 11

Sampras upset at US Open

Page 16



Pets on the eighth floor

Page 10

Index

At Home	10
Business	11
Crossword	19
Movies/TV	19
Opinion	8
Sports	16

Neeman, religious parties head for budget clash

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday expressed "shock" over what it said are Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's plans to abolish the state-funded religious councils. In an official communique the ministry said that, in the course of a meeting with Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi yesterday,

Neeman unveiled plans to slash the ministry's budget, to dismantle its departments for religious and haredi education - which oversee all state-sponsored yeshiva funding - and to transfer the religious councils' functions to local government. Neeman declined to comment on the reports, saying he would present his views on these matters at

Sunday's cabinet meeting. Earlier this week Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz said "a crisis would erupt" if Neeman's previously reported intentions to maneuver haredi yeshiva students into the workforce through various fiscal measures were implemented. Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that Education and Religious

Affairs Minister Ze'ev Hammer said no one has consulted him on the Treasury's plans for structural changes and budget cuts. According to Bibi, Neeman said he intends to reverse former finance minister Dan Meridor's decision to allocate an additional NIS 150 million to the ministry, and on top of that cut an additional NIS 37m. from the ministry's budget.

Referring to that, Bibi told Israel Radio he is "beginning to miss Meridor." Religious councils cater to their respective communities in building and maintaining synagogues, ritual baths, and cemeteries. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has a decisive say in choosing their members, whose pay is similar to that of senior municipal employees.

Neeman also reportedly told the ministry he intends to strip it of its budgets earmarked for aiding yeshiva high-schools, whether for boys or girls, Zionist or haredi. Instead, Neeman would like to transfer those funds to the ministry of education. Last weekend *Yediot Aharonot* said Neeman would like to see Israel's haredim stop their depen-

dence on the national budget and instead join the national economy. Neeman reportedly said he would affect this kind of change by sending all conscription-age haredim for 30 days of military service, after which they would be exempted from the army - but also cease to receive state funds as yeshiva students.

IDF won't honor deal made with rioting prisoners

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

In a controversial decision, IDF Judge-Advocate General Uri Shoham said yesterday the army would not uphold a major part of the agreement it signed with rioting soldiers in Military Prison No. 6 last month.

Shoham said that paragraph five of the agreement, which promises that "the rioters will not be brought to trial" will not be honored. Describing this as "a difficult decision but the right one," Shoham said that the IDF is aware of "the integrity of the system and the ethical aspect of honoring agreements... but this is not an absolute value."

He justified the decision - which was taken after numerous debates within the legal system, including two lengthy meetings with the state attorney - on the grounds that "there are situations when one side... can, may, and sometimes is obligated to shake off its commitment... One of these is when it was signed under duress, extortion, and threats... and when the agreement is not signed with the full willingness of both sides."

The rioters are expected to be indicted, it was reported. Neither Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein nor State Attorney Edna Arbel was willing to comment on the decision last night. Shoham went on to describe how the rioters had held their guards hostage for two days, after they had collected axes, knives, and clubs. "There is evidence that there was a real threat to the lives of the hostages and to those who would try to enter [the jail]... as well as to the rioters who threatened to hurt themselves," he said. Shoham stressed that the first objective had been to prevent bloodshed. In the long run, however, he added, it was decided that it was better "not to get across the message that taking hostages and threatening people is the type of event that does not warrant a severe legal response."

See IDF, Page 2

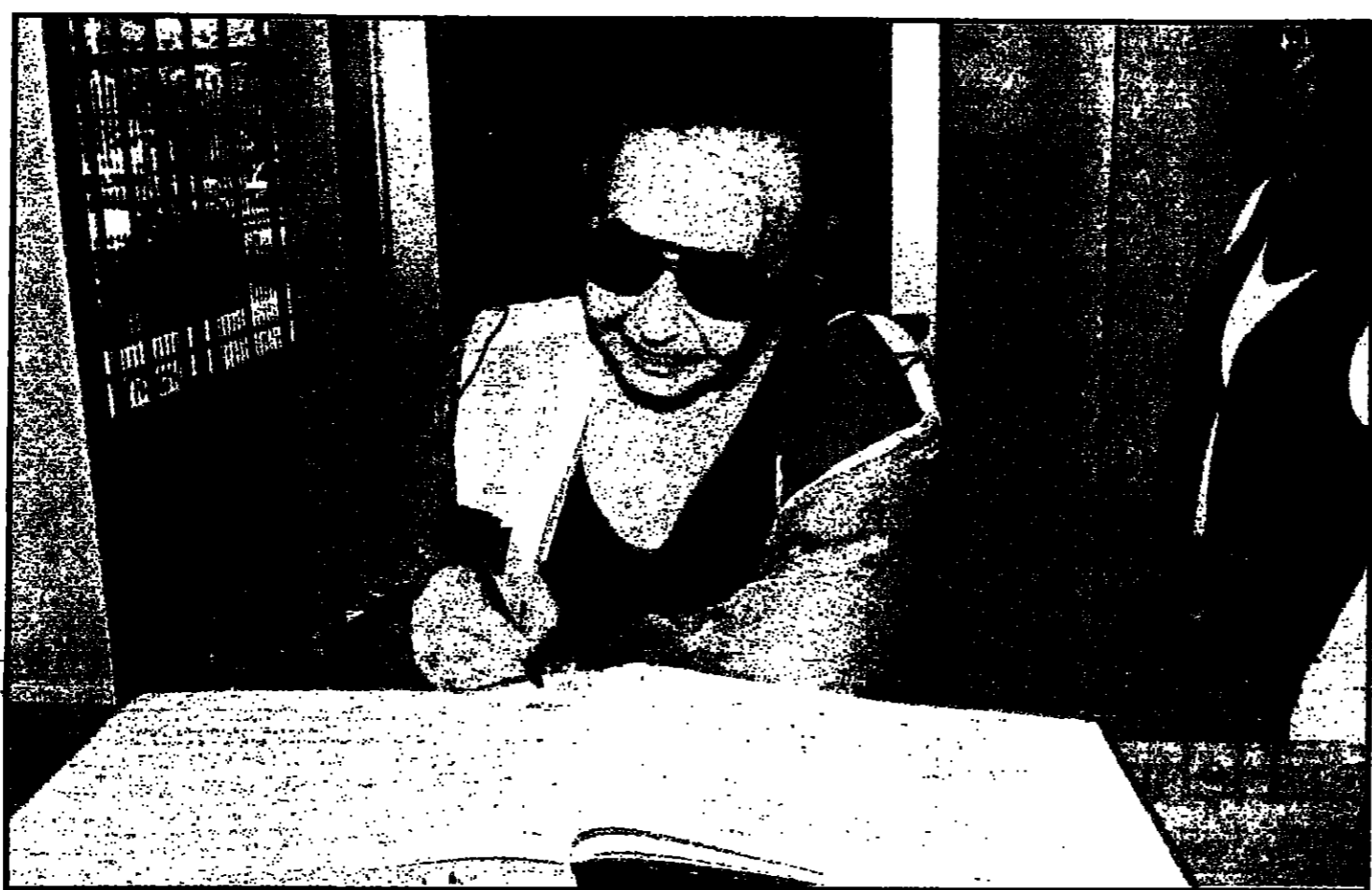
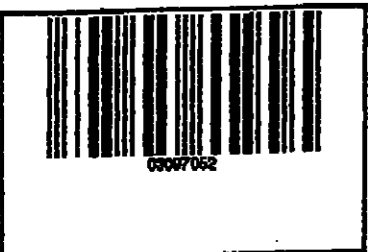
Dow Jones soars 3.4%

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average chalked up its biggest point gain ever yesterday, as it surged more than 257 points.

Based on unofficial data, the Dow ended up 257.36 points, or 3.4 percent, at 7,879.78, beating the 186.84-point leap on October 21, 1987.

Only last week, the index of 30-blue chip stocks crumbled 265 points on concern that the market was overvalued after climbing to an August 6 record close of 8,259.31.

Full Story, Page 13



A woman signs a condolence book at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday.

(Israel Sun)

Seven Diana paparazzi face manslaughter probe

PARIS (Reuters) - All seven photographers held after the car crash that killed Princess Diana and her companion Dodi Fayed will be investigated on counts of suspected manslaughter, causing bodily harm and failing to assist accident victims, their lawyers said.

Lawyers for the Fayed family say the photographers caused the crash by pursuing Diana's car at high speed but the suspects' lawyers deny their clients were responsible. The driver, who was also killed, was legally drunk at the time.

A lawyer for the paparazzi who said he had examined the 350-page investigative report given the judge said there was no mention in that document that any photographer had zig-zagged in front of Diana's Mercedes on a motorcycle just before the crash, as had been alleged by a lawyer for Mohammed Fayed, Dodi Fayed's father.

Lawyers for the photographers, who have been in custody since shortly after the fatal crash

in a Paris road tunnel early on Sunday, acknowledged to reporters on Tuesday that all of

A judicial investigation in France, which is roughly akin to pressing charges, can but does not necessarily lead to a trial.

Lawyers said the inquest could last several months.

The luxury Mercedes-Benz carrying the princess and Fayed crashed into a concrete pillar as it sped through a road tunnel early on Sunday in an apparent attempt to shake off photographers pursuing the couple on motorcycles.

Investigators said the car was travelling at high speed when the driver, Henri Paul, apparently lost control. They said that the level of alcohol in Paul's blood was three times the legal limit.

However, prosecutors denied published accounts that the vehicle's speedometer had been stuck at 196 kph by the crash impact. The speedometer was stuck at zero, they said.

The hearings are to help the judge decide whether and on what grounds to investigate each of the seven paparazzi. The inquiry specifically tar-

gets photographers and will seek to establish whether they took pictures rather than inform the police of the accident and help the victims, or hampered rescuers, justice sources said.

A flurry of bizarre conspiracy theories have sprouted on the Internet and crept into some news media about the death of Princess Diana, most of them morbid and many probably wrong.

Within hours of her death in a Paris car crash, conspiracy theories began appearing on the Internet, including one assertion that she hadn't died at all and was faking her death to escape the media.

Others had her rubbed out by the makers of land mines, which Diana had long campaigned to ban worldwide, or by people intent on keeping her from marrying an Arab Muslim, Dodi Al Fayed.

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ITV: Troops told to stay in path of fatal blaze

5th brushfire victim buried

By DAVID RUDGE

The Golani Brigade soldiers caught in the brushfire that swept through their ranks in a wadi in south Lebanon last Thursday, killing five of them and injuring five others, reportedly asked permission several times to evacuate the area, but at first received no answer.

According to soldiers who have given testimony to the committee of inquiry set up by Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, their commanders then told them to stay.

The allegations were reported last night on Channel 1.

Hundreds of people, including members of the Ethiopian community from all over the country as well as comrades-in-arms, attended the funeral of the fifth victim, Sgt. Shumato Kasahoun, 21, of Rishon LeZion, yesterday afternoon in the military cemetery of his hometown.

According to Channel 1, the unit of 15 soldiers had split into three

squads and taken up ambush positions, when two squads of gunmen were spotted. Four of the gunmen were killed in the ensuing gun battle with no casualties among the IDF soldiers.

According to the report, based on the testimony of the soldiers involved, one of the units, led by the squad commander, Lt. Ophir, was in the central site low down in the wadi, with another one to the right, which was in touch with the field command in the rear. The third unit was at the junction of two wadis.

When the gunmen were spotted at about 9:30 a.m., the forward field command post was manned by a junior officer. He was joined by the battalion commander about two hours later.

In the meantime, a blaze broke out, apparently as a result of artillery and mortar fire. It started to the north of the force and afterward another blaze broke out to the west of it.

See TROOPS, Page 2

Gov't cuts aid to Galilee, Negev

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and SARAH HONG

The Ministerial Committee on Economics yesterday reduced the number of cities and settlements that qualify as priority regions for investment aid and tax benefits.

The Lower Galilee region, which was previously considered Development Area B, will no longer receive preferential treatment. Settlements in the southern Kinneret region have been downgraded from Development Area A to B, as have settlements in the Northern Negev, such as Yeroham.

The plan, which will reduce overall governmental aid to Development Area A by 2%-3% and Area B by 5%, will save NIS 100 million annually, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office said. Cities and settlements located in Area A receive the maximum amount of aid for education and the most incentives for purchasing land.

The committee also decided to cut aid to wealthier areas, such as Karmiel and Upper Nazareth, located within priority zones.

See AID, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Bentsur to attend UN arms parley

Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur leaves today for Geneva, where he will address the 60-nation UN Conference on Disarmament. Israel was accepted as a member of the UN body last year. Among the other Middle Eastern states which belong are Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Egypt. Eitan's speech will explain Israel's approach to disarmament "particularly with regard to our region," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron said. Jay Bushinsky

Jericho synagogue rededicated

The newly renovated Shalom Al Yisrael synagogue was reopened in Jericho yesterday with Knesset members, IDF officers, the head of the Civil Administration and other dignitaries attending. The entire project was coordinated with the Palestinian Authority and was funded by the Civil Administration at a cost of NIS 250,000, taking several months to complete. According to Civil Administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner the project included refurbishing the structure, painting, installing electricity and air conditioning as well as carpets. Margot Dudkevitch

Baby, youth, dead in car crashes

Hadas Azoulai, aged four months, was killed yesterday when the car in which she was riding swerved into the opposite lane and struck a commercial vehicle near Safed. Her mother Orly, 25, who had been driving, was seriously injured. The driver of the van was slightly injured. In another accident, one man was killed and two injured when an ATV overturned near Moshav Hagur. Tim

7 brothers arrested in Bethlehem area

Security forces yesterday arrested seven brothers in the Bethlehem-area village of Khader. Palestinian sources said about 30 soldiers and security agents arrived at the Sbeith home at 3 a.m. and whisked away the suspects. Family members greeting reporters today insisted that the brothers were not active in Islamic militant groups. Security sources, meanwhile, said they are tracking down the whereabouts of two Palestinians missing since mid-August and believed to be in the custody of Palestinian Police. The two were identified as Ahmed Rajde, former mayor of Samoa, south of Hebron, and Ahmed Khleyleh, both 63. Steve Rodan

Netanyahu proposes Azzam prisoner swap

By JAY BUSHINSKY and BAT-SHEVA TSUR

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu conferred for an hour yesterday with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny on the conviction of Azzam Azzam on espionage charges. Sources said Netanyahu proposed a deal in which Egypt would release Azzam and Israel would free the Egyptian nationals in its custody. There was no indication whether the proposal was deemed feasible or whether Bassiouny will convey it to his superiors in Cairo. The legal process with regard to the arrest and conviction of Azzam has not yet been fully exhausted.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told President Ezer Weizman last night. The two also discussed the peace process, a Beit Hamassi spokesman said, but Azzam was their main topic. Mubarak assured Weizman that there would be a continuation of the legal process and asked that the Egyptian legal system be given some time to deal with the affair, which he described as complicated. Mubarak also promised to give Weizman regular updates and said an attempt would be made to find a solution. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa rejected Israel's criticism of the verdict, saying, "The conviction is a judicial matter."

Palestinian officials skeptical about Albright's visit

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian officials are skeptical that the visit of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright can lead Israel to carry out redeployment in the West Bank and implement other elements of the Oslo Accords.

Instead, officials said yesterday, they want Albright to understand that failure by Israel to redeploy and lack of international funding for the Palestinian Authority will lead to an explosion in the territories. It is a message that has been repeated in Palestinian media over the last week.

Meanwhile, the officials said the PA and Israel are preparing to put on their best face in advance of Albright's arrival. They have agreed to another meeting, scheduled for last night, of representatives of Palestinian security forces, the General Security Services, and the US Central Intelligence Agency to discuss the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing investigation and the terrorist threat.

"No one should raise expectations of one visit of Madam Albright," Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said. "What we hope for is that she will engage to support the foundations of the mechanism required for the accurate implementation of the agreement." Erekat leaves today, with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), for Washington to discuss the Albright visit with State Department officials.

Erekat said the Palestinians will be seeking from Albright an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the territories, an end to construction in eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank, and implementation of previous agreements. This includes the opening of a airport and sea-



Palestinian policemen check laborers' permits as they pass through the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip yesterday, after Israel eased the closure to admit an additional 4,000 workers. (Reuters)

port, release of prisoners, safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, and the release of funds allocated for the PA.

"The trust level between us and [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is below zero," Erekat said. "We need the help of a third party."

PA officials have urged Palestinians to remain calm until the PA declares that US efforts have failed.

The preparations for the Albright visit come as the PA continues to be short of funds. Arafat yesterday

sent Planning and International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath on a tour of several Western European countries to obtain money to pay civil service salaries and continue key projects.

Shaath said he believes Albright will have to return to the Middle East more than once to secure a breakthrough. But he said he is optimistic that the visit was being preceded by talks by Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Washington.

Officials, meanwhile, said that 12,000 laborers would be allowed to enter Israel today, half from

Gaza and half from the West Bank. Yesterday, 4,000 laborers were allowed to cross the Green Line.

Israeli officials have pledged to do more. Yesterday, the government coordinator for the territories, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Orr, met with Nablus Mayor Ghassan Shaka' and discussed political and municipal issues. Orr, his aide said, raised the anti-Israeli propaganda rampant in the PA-controlled media.

Shaka' complained of the closure, demolition of unlicensed homes in Area C, and refusal to

permit an industrial zone in Area C. Israel has suggested that the zone be placed in Area B, in which the PA only has civil authority.

David Rudge adds: Leaders of the Jewish community on the Golan are calling on Albright to visit the Heights and meet with them during her upcoming visit.

"We the elected representatives of the 32 Jewish communities on the Golan Heights anticipate your visit with much hope that through your efforts Israel will reach a state of peace for our future generations," the leaders wrote to Albright.

Settlers stone Arabs in Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hebron settlers prevented the continuation of work on Shuhada Street yesterday morning, changing that it was a severe safety hazard.

They said work already completed in other sections was seriously flawed and in some places the sidewalks were less than 15 cm wide making it impossible to push strollers along. They claimed the height of the sidewalks would not prevent a swerving car from hitting children or anyone else walking along them.

"The living space here is very small and we will not allow anyone to choke us," said Jewish Community spokesman Noam Arnon. He added that the Hebron Jewish community had sent letters to the Prime Minister's Office as well as the Defense Ministry and IDF Central Command demanding that the plans be re-evaluated and changed where necessary. The part of the road currently in dispute runs past Beit Hadassah and Beit Schneerson.

As tempers flared between Jews and Arabs, settlers threw stones at a tractor working at the site smashing its front windshield. Police arrested two Palestinians and the American foreman.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said the Palestinian tractor driver became aggressive after stones were thrown and settlers disrupted the work. He resisted arrest and pushed the glass from the smashed windshield towards the police. Another Palestinian came to his aid. The police arrested both.

Meanwhile, Sivan said foreman David Moorehead, an engineer working for USAID started swearing at policemen. He was arrested too. Moorehead told reporters at the site that stones were thrown from the roof of one of the settlers' buildings and that a settler fired an air gun at the tractor shattering its window.

"There was an agreement between us and the police to protect us because settlers have stoned us many times," he said.

Sivan said the three were released later in the day from police custody but police were continuing to search for the settlers who threw stones.

Israeli-Turkish-US naval exercises set for November

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Joint naval maneuvers involving Israeli, Turkish, and American units are scheduled to be held in the Mediterranean Sea from November 15 to 25, with search and rescue operations as their main purpose.

Syria slammed the American role in what Damascus termed "Turkish-Israeli naval war games," expressing "astonishment" that the US is willing to participate while preparing for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's effort to rescue the Middle East peace process.

Reuters quoted a Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the announcement of the war games was "astonishing and could not be

understood." His Israeli counterpart, Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron, said the exercises aren't meant to threaten any state in the region. Shiron said Egypt and Jordan had been invited to join and that there would not have been any objection to Syrian participation as well. These maneuvers were planned a long time ago, he went on, and were a direct outcome of high-level contacts between the Israeli and Turkish security establishments.

However, Reuters quoted the Syrian spokesman as saying the war games are "a desperate attempt to pressure Syria to change its principled stand. But everybody should understand that Syria will not change its position in the peace talks with Israel, which is firm."

A senior Israeli government source doubted whether Damascus's outcry against the maneuvers would prevent Albright from conferring with President Hafez Assad in the Syrian capital.

The fact that the exercise is taking place was first disclosed in the Turkish Daily News and was confirmed afterwards by Israel's embassy in Ankara.

A US Navy official was quoted by the paper as saying the three participating countries will hold a final planning session in October. "We have not yet locked in a date for the exercises," he said. "It could very likely be in November."

A Turkish military delegation is to visit Israel next month to discuss the details, the paper said.

AID

Continued from Page 1

The plan met with scathing criticism across the political spectrum.

Among the first to lash out against the idea was National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, who issued a statement from his home where he is recovering from a leg injury. Sharon vowed to appeal against the decision at the next cabinet meeting.

"This decision will seriously damage the development of both the Galilee and the Negev... The committee which decided on the changes is simply ignoring the real situation of these regions," he said. Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom found it "exceedingly regrettable that the committee had to take this step just now. Its timing could not have been more

unfortunate, just as we are seeking ways to help the North."

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak urged that the decision be "rescinded at once. This decision is akin to robbing the needy."

Meretz chief Yossi Sarid argued that "by removing privileges from outgoing settlements, the Netanyahu government yet again proves itself a taunting and a cheating government... Only yesterday it made far-reaching promises for additional aid and already it is depriving these settlements of the aid which already exists. Only the religious and the settlers stand any chance with this wicked government."

The kibbutz industries, which operate hundreds of plants in the areas in question, also attacked the decision. At a managers convention in Givat Haviva yesterday, kibbutz industries chairman Micha Hertz predicted that "this decision will double unemploy-

TROOPS

Continued from Page 1

At this stage, the force several times asked permission to pull out. Only one request, however, was recorded in the forward field command post. At 1:15 p.m., it was recorded in one of the operation rooms that Lt. Ophir asked permission to leave the area. The response by the battalion commander, according to the report, was negative.

The second unit reported that the fire was only a 700 meters away from them, but even closer to another of the units. This report

was not relayed to the forward field command.

The battalion commander has denied that he refused the force permission to leave the area, according to Channel 1, which said the soldiers spoke despite being ordered not to talk to the media.

There was no official comment on the report, although the IDF Spokesman issued a statement saying the inquiry committee, being headed by Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, is still investigating all the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The statement said that the committee would publish its findings once it completes its inquiry. Meanwhile, two Lebanese

brothers, 10 and 12, were reported to have been wounded in an explosion in the Wadi Saluki area north of the security zone yesterday.

Reports from Lebanon said they were lightly hurt and were taken to hospital in Sidon.

Hizbullah issued a statement saying the IDF had planted explosive devices in the area. Other reports on Lebanese radio stations, however, said it appeared that they had found and been playing with old munitions.

IDF sources denied any involvement, saying it would not be the first time that Hizbullah had been responsible for incidents in which Lebanese civilians had been hurt, then blamed the IDF.

IDF

Continued from Page 1

At a special meeting called during the summer recess, Knesset State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz (Labor) had called on the IDF to keep its word.

Last night, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein condemned the move, saying that "it is forbidden under any circumstances to go back on a signed agreement. This will destroy the foundation for any future negotiations... It is important that soldiers have trust in their commanders."

The Yisrael Ba'aliya faction also published a strong condemnation, saying that "the integrity of the authorities in general, and of the IDF in particular, has been gravely undermined."

Faction whip Roman Brofman said he had visited the prison last week and had heard from guards that they had not been violently threatened by the rioters.

He called for an independent commission of inquiry.

Shmuryahu Ben-Tsur (National Religious Party) said the "soldiers' belief in IDF commanders will be destroyed and [Shoham's decision] could turn into a boomerang if there is another riot."

The head of the Organization of Soldiers' Parents, Amiram Chertok, said that the decision has "not added to the IDF's integrity."

A former senior officer in the Judge-Advocate General's Office, Aharon Levy, said on Israel Radio that "it appears that the negotiations with the rioters were not carried out in completely good faith."

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies shares in the sorrow of Larry Zalcman on the death of his mother MENUCHA FRADL bat Shlomo Todros ZALCMAN ז"ל and prays that the family will be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather HANS AVRAHAM BACHRACH ז"ל on September 1, 1997, 29 Av 5757 (Erev Rosh Hodesh Elul), in Melbourne, Australia. Gini Bachrach nee Kritzler Sharon and Donny Finkel Nurit and Jeremy Ginosar Leora and Allison Silberberg Yehudit and Klory Lieberman and grandchildren. We will be meeting in the main parking lot at Har Hamenuhot on Thursday, September 4, at 8:00 p.m., or one and a half hours after the arrival of flight LY 368 from Rome. Shiva at 33 Rehov Harav Berfin, Jerusalem.

The Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago mourns the loss of Ambassador ZVI BROSH and extends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Audrey, and their children Joel Stone Dr. Steven B. Nasatir Chairman of the Board President. Linda Epstein Director, Israel Office

DEATH OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES Following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, condolence books have been opened at the British Embassy, 192 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, and at the British Consulate General, 19 Nashashibi Street, Jerusalem, for members of the public. The books will remain open in the public areas of the Embassy and the Consulate up to and including September 3. The Embassy is open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Consulate is open from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street, Joe Connors, Bureau Chief of Newsweek will address the Club.

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Zo Artzenu leaders guilty of sedition

By HERB KEINON

Moshe Feiglin and Shmuel Sackett, leaders of the Zo Artzenu group that was at the forefront of the right-wing, anti-government protest movement in the summer of 1995, were convicted of sedition by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The three-judge panel, made up of court president Amnon Cohen, Zvi Zilberal, and Shulamit Dotan, wrote in a 64-page decision that, "We did not place the emphasis on those illegal demonstrations that were organized by the defendants (and which to our regret are not rare here), but rather on the whole package of activity that they organized and planned to carry out."

"The accused wanted to create a situation where, as a result of their actions, the government would not be able to function - not because of their influence on public opinion, but rather because of a physical inability to function."

The judges rejected Feiglin's and Sackett's claim that they were "only" carrying out classic acts of passive civil disobedience. "It is not clear that the acts of the defendants can be categorized as civil disobedience, and it is even more doubtful that what is being discussed was non-violent civil disobedience," the judges wrote.

Zo Artzenu ("this is our land" carried out a string of protest actions in the summer of 1995, including the blocking of key intersections throughout the country and the attempt to set up temporary "new settlements" on various hills in Judea and Samaria.

Citing numerous examples from Zo Artzenu literature, the judges ruled that Feiglin and Sackett were guilty of sedition, defined in part in the penal code as an act that leads to "hatred, scorn, or disloyalty to the state, or its duly established governing bodies or law."

The only other Jew ever convicted of a sedition charge was Binyamin Kahane in 1993, for distributing seditious material. His



Zo Artzenu leaders Shmuel Sackett (left) and Moshe Feiglin discuss their guilty verdict yesterday at Jerusalem Magistrate's Court. (Itan Hazeri)

appeal is still pending before the Supreme Court.

Sackett - wearing a Zo Artzenu T-shirt that read, "I am willing to be arrested for the homeland, because this is our land" - said after the verdict that, "Martin Luther King would have been found guilty of sedition here."

Sedition was the most serious charge in an indictment that also included lesser charges of incitement and unlawful gathering. Feiglin was convicted on an unlawful gathering charge, and both were acquitted of the incitement charges. Sentencing is scheduled for late October following a trial began in January 1996.

Sackett said that, unless the sentence is "extremely heavy," he has no intention of filing an appeal. "I am proud of what we did," he said. "We did not run away from the charges."

Among the 40 people who crammed into the small courtroom in Jerusalem's Russian Compound to hear the verdict was Moleket MK Benny Elon. Elon was originally one of the defendants when the charge sheet, was filed in 1995, but the charges against him were suspended due to Knesset immunity after he won a seat in the last elections.

Elon said that if the charges against him are not dropped, he will ask that his Knesset immunity be lifted so that he can stand trial. "I have a lot to say about the issue, but first want to read the verdict," he said. Feiglin said he was surprised by the verdict. "My estimation was that the court would not dare convict for sedition someone who struggled through democratic measures against the government. I was convinced that the court, in order to preserve the democratic nature of the state, would go harder on us on the other counts, but not convict us of sedition."

Feiglin said he does not regret his actions. "As I said at the beginning of the struggle, the price I may have to pay is nothing compared to the damage caused by the

left-wing government with the Oslo agreements. I would go back and do exactly the same things."

The judges, in a verdict which dealt with cardinal issues such as the right to protest and civil disobedience, took the police to task for some of its actions at the protests. "A harsh picture of the actions of certain policemen at some of the events was revealed to us," the judges wrote.

"With all due caution, it is possible to determine that there were instances when actions taken by the police heated up the atmosphere and unnecessarily harmed innocent citizens who saw fit to express their opinions."

Treasury undermining health system claim

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday accused the Treasury of plotting to abolish the national health insurance system while putting up a facade of "making structural changes" in the economy.

Matza said that if the Finance Ministry succeeds, there will be a two-class health system: one for

the rich, who can supplement a diminished basket of health services, and another for the poor, who can't. Treasury sources, who insisted on remaining anonymous, said that in view of the massive deficits, health funds should be encouraged to "become more efficient" by charging for certain services if they wish or absorbing the costs by reducing

expenses in other services. The Treasury source said it wants to delay "by a year" an increase in hospital beds, but will abide by a commitment to increase the number of doctors.

Matza charged that the Treasury not only intends to cut health services provided to residents, but also to prevent the inclusion in the basket of vital new medications

and technologies that have been developed since the national health insurance system began nearly three years ago. The Treasury, Matza says, wants to transfer many treatments to optional supplementary health insurance programs offered by the health funds - or to charge health fund members for them.

Meanwhile, the Israel Medical Association said that it would fight to prevent cuts in the health budget and demanded that Prime Minister Binyamin-Netanyahu instruct the Treasury to honor an agreement the Health Ministry signed with the doctors.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW BY MICHAEL SEDA

The jewelry market in Gaza is thriving, swamped with women selling their golden trinkets. The severe economic distress of the Palestinians, aggravated by the month-long closure and the government's retention of Palestinian tax money, was worsened by UNRWA's announcement of a NIS 50 fee on each pupil at its schools. These were the two key issues preoccupying the Palestinian newspapers.

The UN and World Bank have estimated the direct loss to the Palestinian economy since the closure began at \$60 million. Palestinian economists estimate the unemployment rate at 70 percent.

The economic measures were highlighted in feature stories describing the daily struggle. Samur Jantu in the official daily *Al Hayat al-Jadida* called for social mutual aid: "Let the rich help the poor and stretch a hand of support to the needy" (August 27). A gold dealer told *Al-Kuds*, the largest daily, that people have been selling their jewelry "even though gold is the last source of savings for the Palestinian family."

Starvation closures
An-Najah University economists Yusuf Haq and Nasser Karim suggested the preparation of an emergency plan to counter the "Israeli starvation closures." They also called for the establishment of national emergency storehouses, as is common in most states, according to *Al-Kuds* (August 27).

In its editorial on August 24, *Al-Kuds* asked: "Who profits from the freeze put on the peace process?... the evaporation of the peace process... is harmful both to the Israelis and to the Palestinians... Real security will be guaranteed only by real peace and by recognizing legitimate Palestinian rights, not by confiscating Palestinian lands, not by constructing more settlements." *Al-Kuds* columnist and poet Ali Khalil sarcastically criticized Netanyahu. "For him the implementation of the Oslo accord is nothing more than a copy of the Sa'ad Haddad and Antoine Lahad solution... What made him furious

was the failure of his plan to destroy the delicate Palestinian fabric and bring the Palestinian people to their knees."

UNRWA Crisis
The UNRWA financial crisis is not new. Since its foundation 47 years ago the UN Relief and Works Agency for the Palestinian refugees has reduced support several times. The imposition of school fees to ease its \$20 million deficit caused a general strike in the Gaza Strip, and protests in Lebanon and Jordan. Over 150,000 children from 167 Gaza schools stayed at home for one week. Palestinian discussions with UN officials and opinion articles in all the newspapers suggested this too was a scheme, coordinated with the donor countries and with Israel, to put more pressure on the Palestinians.

It is part of Israel's plan to eliminate the refugee problem, said PLO executive committee member Asad Abd al-Rahman to the semi-official *al-Ayyam*. "It will be a disaster and a betrayal if anybody takes over any UN responsibility before there is a permanent and just solution of the Palestinian problem." (August 25).

Talal Okal described the UNRWA crisis as "another link in the siege chain." Two days later, in the same newspaper, Tawfiq Wasfi wrote: "We shall pay, not to the [UN] Agency... but to the Authority, when it takes over... when the world gets to solve justly the refugee problem." The pro-Famas weekly *al-Risalah*, predictably, said: "UNRWA declares war on the Palestinians."

Reporting the weekly Palestinian cabinet meeting *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* on Saturday linked the two key issues in its main headline: "The leadership confirms an Israeli Plan to Destroy - Our Economy - Wonders About The UNRWA Measures."

Look at me
Directly addressing Israeli public opinion as well as regular denunciation of Israeli government policy has become a tradition. Samiha Khalil, who challenged Arafat for the presidency in the

1996 elections, wrote "a letter to the Israeli mother," calling on Israeli and Palestinian mothers to cooperate in rejecting the harsh measures which affect children and women.

Palestinian ambassador to Spain, Nabil Ma'ruf, wrote "A letter to the Israeli people" in *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* (August 25). Comparing Israeli policies to South African Apartheid, Ma'ruf said that "We are doomed to live together. Let us give generations that have lived the conflict the opportunity to see some light at last... We, who have fought each other, let's see our children have a tranquil future before we die."

Journalists' plights
Another focus was the journal-

ists' interest in their profession and image.

In *al-Ayyam* some of them shared their thoughts with the reader, following a series of meetings with Arafat.

Ashraf Ajrami commented that journalists were not given the opportunity to fulfill their main purpose: to bring to Arafat the voice of the common people. According to Hussein Hijazi of the ministry of information, which organized the meetings, the Palestinian media has failed to become a strong and reliable source of information.

Quoting Bernard Shaw as saying that his words were stronger than the British fleet, he added that the Palestinian media is not yet trusted and respected by the Palestinian leadership.

Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.
Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

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DATE: Friday and Saturday, 19-20 September
AT: Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Jerusalem.
PRICE: NIS 670 per person in double room, half board (Shabbat dinner and breakfast), three lectures, tour of the exhibition at the Israel Museum, and use of hotel facilities.
Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Jerusalem 91074, Tel. 02-5666231 (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

Partial acquittal for Oberkowitz

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday acquitted Hapoel sports organization chairman Yoram Oberkowitz, 58, and former Hapoel director-general Ya'acov Avimor, 49, of conspiring to damage the reputation of journalist Arye Maliniak and invading his privacy. The two were found guilty, however, of false registration of organization documents, organizational fraud, and breach of trust.

The two were accused of hiring a private investigator to find damaging information about Maliniak, who in 1993 headed a committee to investigate the situation of Israeli sports. They were also accused of fraudulently approving NIS 54,716 in funding

for the investigation out of the Hapoel organization's consulting fee funds. The two allegedly feared that Maliniak's committee recommendations, which were published in August 1993, would hurt the sports organizations' standings. They therefore sought to slander him in the press and undermine



Hapoel's Yoram Oberkowitz (Haim Gershon)

his credibility, and sent derogatory material about him to the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports. They allegedly had the investigators look into Maliniak's family life, income, and whether or not he had any hidden agenda in his work on the committee.

Between February and October 1994, the two passed on the information the investigator gathered to journalist Shaul Eisenberg, who then used the material in a damaging article on Maliniak in *Basketball* magazine in June 1994. Oberkowitz and Avimor then wrote off the cost of the investigator as "consulting fees," paid from Histadrut funds.

In delivering his verdict against the Oberkowitz and Avimor, Judge Dan Arbel noted, "There is no doubt that the accused were aware of the fact that Maliniak's good name was liable to be harmed as a result of the investigation."

In a separate ruling, Arbel also found Eisenberg guilty of conspiring to harm Maliniak's name, saying that "Eisenberg operated from unacceptable personal motives and exploited the investigation to advance his personal interest in harming Maliniak... It may be clearly understood from his testimony that he had a great personal enmity for Maliniak." (Iim)



Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz yesterday passes out literature at the intersection of Derech Namir and Rehov Arlosoroff in Tel Aviv. (Yael Someh/Israel Sun)

Histadrut strikes to begin on Sunday

The Histadrut will begin striking various sectors of the economy on Sunday trade union division head Shlomo Shani said last night, after thousands of angry workers had blocked dozens of major intersections around the country in the morning to protest the government's economic policy.

Shani said that beginning Saturday night, the Histadrut would announce each day which

industries would be struck the following day. A general strike, however, is still possible in coming days, said, head of the labor federations.

The protests at the intersections did not severely impact morning rush hour traffic. "We didn't mean to disrupt today. We were at the intersections to give out information," Shani said.

The Histadrut also held meetings throughout the day with public and private sector workers' committees to coordinate activities.

Yesterday marked the end of a legally mandated cooling-off period, after the Histadrut declared a work dispute over government plans to reform the pension system and implement structural changes in the economy.

Histadrut and Treasury officials have been negotiating for several weeks over union grievances, chief among them being what the unions say is the government's failure to honor an agreement reached over pension funds.

The funds are heavily subsidized by the government through the issuance of non-tradable bonds carrying preferred terms. (News Agencies)

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State to appeal acquittal of allegedly abusive teacher

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The State Attorney's Office has decided to appeal the acquittal of a kindergarten teacher who was found not guilty of inflicting corporal punishment on the children in her charge. The case will now be heard by the Supreme Court.

A month ago, teacher Rachel Sadeh Orr was acquitted by Haifa District Court Judge Menachem Ne'eman. She allegedly hit her pupils on a regular basis when they disobeyed her, according to the charge sheet. In one case, a parent entered the kindergarten and saw her child bending over with exposed bottom while the teacher hit her in front of the other children.

Most of the children were allegedly scared of the way Orr banged the toilet door and preferred to soil their clothing, the charge sheet said. Some of the children had learned to swear, apparently from the teacher. "Shut up, you get on my nerves," one of them told a parent, quoting the teacher.

In acquitting Orr, Ne'eman said that "soft" corporal punishment - which does not leave bruises - is acceptable with minors and could even be "educational." But the prosecution described this as abuse of minors, noting that the teacher was suspected of abusing the children both physically and psychologically over a prolonged period.

New stamp honors Ethiopian Jewry

By JUDY SIEGEL

If the same sacrifices and energy invested in bringing Ethiopian Jews here had been expended on their absorption, the integration of the community of 62,000 would have been much more successful, President Ezer Weizman and Communications Minister Limor Livnat said yesterday.

They were speaking at a Beit Hanassi ceremony marking the issue of a NIS 1.10 stamp honoring Ethiopian Jewry, which shows a woman in traditional Ethiopian garb. The stamp, designed by A. Vanooijen, is one of a series of three on ethnic costumes that also honors the Jews of Kurdistan and the Jews of Salonika.

The Ethiopian Jewry stamp was enlarged and hung near the entrance to the President's Residence along with the "Hello, First Grade" stamp, which was based on a drawing by Navit Mangasha, 10, who studies at the Yesodot School in Bnei Brak, and whose parents immigrated from Ethiopia in 1973. Weizman recalled his joy at



The new stamp showing an Ethiopian woman in traditional garb.

meeting soldiers of Ethiopian origin in units around the country, testifying to their gradual integration into society. "I asked some soldiers on the Golan if they had any requests, and one Ethiopian got up and fearlessly said he wanted to see his mother, who was still in Ethiopia. We managed to arrange it."

Livnat, who presented a stamp

album to Ethiopian Ambassador Zewde Otoro, noted that joyful things such as Navit's drawing being selected completely on its own merits for the stamp design are a sign of "normalcy." The stamp, she said, could contribute in its small way to integration by focusing light on the community and eliciting appreciation.

David Maharat, adviser to the

education minister on Ethiopian Jews, delivered a moving plea for "respecting everyone's differences" as a basis for a unified society.

After undergoing many travails on their way here, losing relatives to disease, starvation, and attacks, Maharat (who lost three of his brothers) said the community has not enjoyed complete support. "We must respect people who are different than us - the lack of this causes divisions in society and prevents the mobilization of all talents in the Ethiopian community."

Yitzhak Hoffi, a former director of the Mossad which had a key role in bringing Ethiopian Jews here, said he was speaking for the first time publicly on this effort, some of whose details must still remain secret. He cited the determination of the late premier Menachem Begin, "who asked me about our plans every time we met," of the sailors and airmen who often risked their lives, and of the immigrants themselves who overcame moral danger.

Latvian survivors outraged at WJC fund-raising letter

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Latvian Holocaust survivors are furious that they have been exploited in a fund-raising campaign by the World Jewish Congress, saying the WJC does not represent them, nor has it helped them.

The WJC, for its part, said it has tried to assist the Latvians at "the highest levels" of the German and American governments.

The public challenge to the fund-raising campaign is part of a larger fray in which the Jews of Eastern Europe now insist on representing themselves in reparations and restitution negotiations with European governments.

Steven Springfield, president of the Jewish Survivors of Latvia, charged that the fund-raising claims are insulting, exaggerated, and wrong.

"For over a year now, the World Jewish Congress has been disseminating thousands of fund-raising letters to members of the American Jewish community which create the impression in one's mind that the Jewish community of Latvia is being assisted and represented by the WJC," Springfield wrote earlier last month in a letter to Latvian survivors. "Nothing could be further

from the truth." This is the second time this year that a WJC fund-raising letter has drawn fire. Switzerland complained that a fund-raiser failed to note Swiss cooperation with the WJC to identify and restore dormant Jewish assets in Swiss banks.

In the last two years, the Latvian survivors - now numbering 83 - have become the symbol of the disparity in reparations between the Nazi victims who live in the West and those in Eastern Europe. Not only have the Latvians not received compensation from Germany, but they live side by side with Waffen SS veterans who often receive military disability pensions from Bonn.

Last month, the German government and the Claims Conference agreed to create a commission to determine how to compensate Nazi victims in Eastern Europe. The commission is to issue a report within 90 days.

For the first time, Eastern European survivors, represented by Alexander Bergmann of Riga, were part of the Claims Conference's negotiating team. Bergmann's presence, along with a newspaper advertising campaign conducted by the American Jewish Committee, was credited with the progress, a German Foreign Ministry source

said. "As distasteful as it was to me to confront another Jewish organization, this is an issue where we feel that the poor people in Latvia were being used for the fund-raising efforts of the WJC," Springfield said recently from his home in New York.

The first fund-raising letter was sent out in a mass-mailing to thousands of American Jews earlier this year.

Springfield said that had the WJC's Latvian campaign been a "one-shot deal," the survivors would not have made their complaints public. In fact, it became something of a joke last spring, when Bergmann said: "It must not have been successful. We haven't seen a penny."

However, the second Latvian fund-raising letter raised the survivors' ire.

The letter's claims are unjustified, Springfield said. He was especially irked by the letter's claim that "the WJC is working so hard on behalf of the Latvian Jews, for if we don't do it no one else will."

"This is incorrect," he said. The survivors in the US, the Joint Distribution Committee, and Winfried Nachtwei, a member of Bundestag from the Greens Party,

are the ones who have been helping the survivors, Springfield said.

"The WJC said it 'stands together with the Jewish community in Latvia,' but here I have to point out again that at no time was anyone in the Jewish community in Latvia informed or consulted - another contradiction," Springfield said.

"Last but not least, the WJC claims 'that the fight on behalf of these 88 [83] is not about money. It is about dignity and respect for people who have suffered too long,'" Springfield's letter said. "However, what kind of respect and dignity is it if the Latvian Jews are being used for fund-raising by the WJC without ever being notified or consulted?"

Elan Steinberg, the WJC's executive director, said it is "ludicrous" to charge that there was no contact between the WJC and the Latvians, noting that Bergmann had been with Israel Singer, the WJC's secretary general, at the Claims Conference negotiations in Bonn.

However, Bergmann had been appointed to the negotiating team by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference.

"They never consulted us. They never informed us. They never gave [the survivors] one dime," Springfield said of the WJC. "if they did collect money under these pretenses, they should make a donation."

When asked if the WJC had used the proceeds of the letter to help the Latvians, Steinberg said that the net cost of the current mailing of the Latvian letter, which began in May, was \$20,886. "That's what it ended up costing us. It did not produce a profit."

The letter's purpose was not only fund-raising, Steinberg said, but to generate thousands of petitions to the German government in support of the survivors.

"We need our voices heard and spoken by ourselves," Gregory Krupnikov, co-chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia, said earlier this summer at a conference in Strasbourg, where members of the European Council of Jewish Communities demanded a seat on the World Jewish Restitution Organization, whose most visible members are the WJC's Singer and Edgar Bronfman.

Unlike survivors in Israel and the West, Nazi victims in the former Soviet bloc have been excluded from the WIRO, which has been negotiating with Eastern European governments for five years for the restitution of Jewish property.

Palace gates become people's shrine

By JILL SERJEANT

LONDON (Reuters) - When Princess Diana suggested she wanted to be a "queen of people's hearts," the media mocked.

But the outpouring of grief at her death, the accounts of acts of Diana's private kindness, and the mountains of flowers show just how much the woman destined never to sit on the British throne captured the affections of ordinary people.

The gates to her London home are becoming something akin to a shrine.

Handwritten notes, heart-shaped balloons, children's drawings, and flowers draped on trees line the pathways to Kensington Palace.

By yesterday, the carpet of flowers stretched 400 meters to the road, and still the mourners, young and old, flocked in their hundreds to pay silent and tearful tribute to the "people's princess."

For the glamorous Diana, compassion did not stop with the titular patronage of her hundreds of charities.

In scrawled notes pinned to the palace railings and in media interviews, scores of ordinary people suffering sickness, bereavement, and homelessness told of her private and unpublicized calls and visits.

"You came and asked me how long I had been on the streets. You then went and got me something to eat and drink," wrote a homeless man on a home-made plaque.

"Without her help, I really believe I would have died," he added to reporters.

A note from a "grieving nurse" recalls how Diana met a patient who was dying of AIDS in 1991. "I know you wrote privately to him for a long time. For that compassion, I thank you," she wrote.

In between the star-studded premieres, the Mediterranean holidays, and the shopping trips, Diana was often befriending complete strangers.



Mourners gather yesterday at the gates of Kensington Palace, Princess Diana's former residence, in central London. Diana's funeral will be held Saturday and massive crowds are expected to line the route. (AP)

Danielle Stephenson, 8, was sick in hospital with a heart condition when she met Princess Diana.

"We didn't really expect to see her again," said Danielle's mother. "But she was as good as her word. She didn't come back once but

again and again." The cards and messages strewn on the gilded gates of the palace bid farewell to an angel, a saint, a goddess. For one mourner she was "simply the best."

A huge placard from the inmates of Dartmoor Prison thanks Diana "for treating us like human beings, not criminals."

Philip Woolcock told how Diana telephoned and visited his family regularly during and after the death from cancer of their 19-

year-old daughter Louise. The friendship that blossomed had remained a secret.

"She spoke to us with an honesty and compassion that we hitherto had not experienced from anyone," recalled Woolcock.

Russians blame crew for Mir woes

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) - Russian space officials yesterday formally blamed the Mir's former crew for a nearly disastrous space collision in June and said that the two cosmonauts would be fined.

In a harshly critical report, a space commission concluded "beyond any doubt" that Mir's former commander Vasily Tsibilyev and flight engineer Alexander Lazutkin were responsible for the June 25 accident, when a cargo ship slammed into the Mir during a practice docking.

Valery Ryumin, the Russian coordinator of the Mir-NASA program, said the finding was reached after a thorough examination of flight data.

"Personally we felt pity for the boys, but the facts remain," Ryumin said. "Most likely we will have to fine them, cutting the payments due under the contract."

The report comes as Tsibilyev and Lazutkin are still recovering after their grueling six-month stint on the space station, which was plagued by a series of breakdowns. They returned to Earth on August 14 and are supposed to wrap up their post-flight rehabilitation on Friday.

The Russian media has long blamed the crew

for the collision, citing anonymous sources saying that Tsibilyev had failed to take into account extra weight that was on the cargo ship.

Tsibilyev and Lazutkin had apparently anticipated such a verdict. Upon their return to Earth, they blamed the collision on the Mir's worn-out equipment.

"It's easy to find a scapegoat," Tsibilyev told reporters within hours of landing. "But tomorrow a similar problem may happen with another cargo ship."

Ryumin, the space official, would not specify what error the crew made. Nor did he elaborate on what amount of fines the crew will have to pay.

Meanwhile, the Mir's current crew was busy preparing for a spacewalk this weekend in which they will try to patch up the damaged station.

Mir's Russian commander Anatoly Solovyov and NASA astronaut Michael Foale planned to spend about five hours in their spacewalks to simulate conditions for their spacewalk, tentatively set for Saturday, said Mission Control spokeswoman Irina Manshilina.

NASA hasn't yet given formal authorization for Foale to take part in the venture outside the station, which is expected to last close to six hours, but the Russians have been proceeding

as if he will take part. Foale has made only one spacewalk, in February 1995, and never before in a Russian space suit.

Russian space officials postponed the spacewalk, originally planned for today, to give Foale more time to practice. He had not been working with a Russian spacesuit since he was in ground training several months ago.

Saturday's trip is expected to be the first in a series of spacewalks needed to spot and patch holes in the Mir's Spektr module.

Simply locating the hole or holes could prove difficult. They are believed to be under one of the module's solar panels - a spot extremely difficult to reach.

Solovyov and Mir's engineer Pavel Vinogradov first tried to locate the damage from the collision during their August 22 trip inside the depressurized Spektr module, but failed to find any holes.

They succeeded, however, in reattaching power cables that helped restore the Mir's energy supply.

Mir had been running at about half power for two months, but now is expected to come back to about 90 percent of its original power.

Saturday's spacewalk is tentatively set to last from 4:55 a.m. Moscow time until 10:35 a.m. Moscow time, Manshilina said.

A flourishing Moscow marks 850 years

By DAVE CARPENTER

MOSCOW (AP) - When a modern-day Rip van Winkle awoke in Russia's capital this year after a 20-year absence, it didn't take him long to confirm some of the century's most startling changes.

It wasn't the malls or the malls, the casinos, the mirrored-glass office towers or the rebuilt churches that riveted Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky's attention.

The former Soviet dissident could see it in the way Muscovites carry themselves, in the way they talk.

The eyes-downcast "Soviet man" who scurried along the spartan streets of a city whose soul was hidden from view is long gone. In his place are multicultural masses and a teeming bazaar of a metropolis whose chaotic changes, wars and all, are on full polychrome display.

A city of extremes, the Moscow that is marking its 850th anniversary can be maddening, inspiring, outrageous, exhilarating, bleak, crass, cultured, corrupt, filthy-rich, dirt-poor, and dirty - but hardly boring.

"When you talk to people you see that it's a very different place," Sharansky observed. "People enjoy life much more deeply and feel more security and confidence."

If this city of 9 million has become a feast for the senses, it is fame for the have-nots. Strewn in the wake of Russia's upheaval are legions of beggars, orphans, homeless, jobless, and impoverished elderly, confronting daily deprivation with scant hope for improvement.

But swept up in the frenzy of a building boom that coincides with grandiose anniversary celebrations climaxed the weekend of September 5-7, Muscovites seem to be walking a bit taller these days. Most will tell you they agree

with the red banners stretched across city streets that gush, "I Love You, Moscow!" TV promotions audaciously proclaim this "the best city on earth."

Shortcomings or not, this place derided by foreigners as "The Big Potato" not long ago is a dynamic, thriving city that is transforming itself in a dramatic comeback from its nadir around the time of the Soviet collapse in 1991.

"At the start of reforms, this city was dying," says commentator Denis Dragunsky. "Only about three years ago did we begin to live OK. Rarely will you find a city that changed so - in a snap... We're living in a different world."

Moscow's new brashness surfaces early every morning, when guarded convoys of Mercedes emerge from blocky brick "cortages" that crowd choice suburbs. Hurling along with blue lights flashing, these bankers, businessmen, and government luminaries enter a Moscow whose old outer shell remains intact. Numbing rows of concrete apartment towers loom behind a not-so-welcoming "MOCKBA" sign from another era, complete with communist star, and monstrous Stalin Gothic skyscrapers still lurk on the skyline.

But changes are evident everywhere. Signs herald new restaurant or store openings daily. Haphazard kiosks that sprouted like weeds a decade ago are being ripped out and replaced by more permanent convenience shops and bistros. Hard-hat workers, who face regular grillings by Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, are rushing to finish Europe's largest shopping mall just outside the Kremlin.

Key roads are choked. With 2.1 million cars, Moscow's traffic flow has nearly tripled since 1991. On busy sidewalks, orange-robed Hare Krishnas, unformed

Cossacks, tattooed gangsters, and leather-clad models share space with ordinary working people, who seem spiffier every year.

Swank boutiques and clubs are making historic Tverskaya Street even glitzier. They're mere window-shopping sites for most Muscovites, but Moscow is a giant street bazaar, and savvy shoppers get their quota of imported goods elsewhere.

Siting by an elegant new fountain in front of the Bolshoi Theater, a woman from Turkmenistan who visits every summer marvels at the changes.

"Everything was so dirty [in 1991]; there was trash in the streets," she says. "But now it looks amazing. Everywhere I look there's order and cleanliness."

Moscow has always been the City of Oz for Russians.

Stuck in the dreary boondocks, Chekhov's characters spent entire plays pining for their beloved capital as a dream city of sun, flowers, and refinement - even if the reality fell short.

Today, more than ever, Moscow isn't Russia. Much of the country remains locked in centuries-old poverty, and even villages a short drive away seem scarcely ready for the 20th century, let alone the 21st.

For every retractable-roof stadium or glittering business complex built in Moscow with lavish public financing, hundreds of factories, schools, and hospitals stand decaying across 11 time zones.

The capital's new prosperity is coming increasingly at the provinces' expense. More than 60 percent of foreign investment is in Moscow. And Muscovites, comprising 6% of the population, accounted for 23% of the country's income last year.

That gap may widen even more based on the frantic building activity in Moscow, where the drone of

jackhammers this summer became the city's unofficial anthem.

At ground zero of the building boom, the monumental Christ the Savior Cathedral on the banks of the Moscow River is a magnet of human energy. Passing motorists crane their necks to glimpse the nearly finished cathedral, where two-plus years of round-the-clock construction has duplicated what took four decades to build in the 1800s.

'Japan PM plans reshuffle'

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is set to reshuffle his 20-member cabinet as early as next week but will retain Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, media reports said yesterday.

In a cabinet overhaul expected to take place on September 11, after Hashimoto is formally re-elected as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, LDP faction boss Keizo Obuchi is tipped to replace Yukihiko Ikeda as foreign minister. Kyodo news agency quoted party sources as saying.

The re-election of Hashimoto, who became prime minister in January 1996 and started a second term last November, is virtually certain as he is running unopposed for the LDP's top post.


The 60-year-old Hashimoto was likely to choose LDP veteran Kenzo Muraoka to succeed Seiroku Kajiyama as chief cabinet secretary, a pivotal coordinating post which also carries the responsibility of government spokesman, the reports said.

Hashimoto departs for China on Thursday for a four-day official visit that will include talks with his Chinese counterpart, Li Peng, and tours of two northeast Chinese industrial centers.

Column One

Boris tells the kids his job is up for grabs

By Thomas O'Dwyer



Good old Boris Yeltsin - he's a character we shall all miss. Yes, he's going, it's official. The news was just about swamped off the international media by the blanket coverage of the Princess Diana tragedy, but then Boris wasn't looking to steal the limelight anyway.

His decision to step down in 2000 he announced to a group of kiddies starting their first day of the school year - so his visit to their school probably would not have been covered even on a slow news day. He told the boys "and the girls" his job was up for grabs if they want to aim for it - eventually.

The constitution theoretically precludes him from seeking a third term - but in the still-evolving Russian system, who could be sure. His decision will be welcomed - not because people want to be rid of him, but because he will set a democratic precedent of a two-term presidency any successor will overturn at his peril.

Though 66 is no great age these days, Yeltsin is an old man by Russian standards. His own constitution as well as the state's would appear to rule out another gruelling campaign and working term for a man with his history of health problems.

No one will begrudge him finishing in the job now and then retiring to his garden and couch. He has had his ups and downs, made a fool of himself on occasions and even made serious mistakes - like going to war in Chechnya - but history will probably be kind to him.

Forgivable foibles Given the society from which he sprang and his long hard life near and at the top of Soviet and Russian politics, he is a unique person and a key historic figure.

Russians may be less indulgent about him than Westerners, but they still remain far more forgiving of his foibles and eccentricities than they did of Mikhail Gorbachev. The world will have ample time to mull over his legacy when the time comes, so for the moment the main focus of speculation is over who might succeed him.

"We have a very good team," Yeltsin told the schoolchildren, "a good, friendly and intelligent team." That may have surprised his team - the rare compliments Boris the Boss bestows on his ministers have all too often been followed by public humiliations and firings.

Indeed Monday's pat on the back for "the team" was followed Tuesday by a kick in the pants for Viktor Chernomyrdin.

As is his wont, Yeltsin did not deliver it in the privacy of his office. He composed a grim visage and chose the space in front of the TV cameras to wag his finger at the prime minister for the government's failure to pay state employees.

Modest growth Yet for all such scoldings and firings of laggardly underlings, Yeltsin seems genuinely more happy with his current team - and he can take the credit for it, even if his management selection techniques are somewhat eccentric in a czarist sort of way.

Bouncing back from his major heart surgery Yeltsin has amazed everyone with his extremely active schedule. He lit fires under the moribund free-market reform program while exuberantly fighting off his old nationalist and communist enemies in the Duma. Russians may be unpaid and mostly living in what the West might call poverty - but the economy has stabilized at last and modest growth now seems assured. At least Boris now seems unlikely to be booted off the stage.

And when he does go - he can have a chuckle while shopping at his not so friendly downtown grocery store which opened last week.

That's Zhirinovskiy's Grocery Store. The new grocer in town is no less than the former ogre used to scare the children of the liberals and Yeltsinites - Vladimir Zhirinovskiy himself, who seems to have beaten Boris into a new career.

Adorning acres of shelf space (beside goodies from the hated West) is Zhirinovskiy's personal brand of Zhirinovskiy Vodka.

Vlad's own ugly mug decorates the label. At least that should keep Boris off the booze.

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Back to school
Standing in front of a Che Guevara poster, Cuban leader Fidel Castro this week addressed a gathering of school children. Last week, Havana denied reports that the 71-year-old dictator is seriously ill. (AP)

Season of change

After the euphoria of the bipartisan budget deal, the US Congress may be in for all-out battles as the fall session gets underway

By EDWIN CHEN

WASHINGTON — They left town on a bipartisan high after reaching a historic compact with the White House to balance the federal budget while cutting taxes. But as members of Congress return to work this week from their August recess, their summer of love appears likely to beget an autumn of trench warfare.

The budget deal, in fact, may have made a partisan bloodletting inevitable by blurring the philosophical distinctions between the two parties. Many rank-and-file Democrats and Republicans are clearly eager to sharpen their political differences as another election year approaches, one in which control of Congress will be at stake — especially the House, where the GOP holds a slim 21-seat margin.

"The mayhem and bickering are about to return — and just in time," said Paul Gigot, an influential right-of-center commentator. "The era of bipartisanship is over precisely because of the budget deal. ... Let the brawling begin."

The appetite for ideology-driven combat should quickly manifest itself as both houses focus on the most pressing business at hand: enacting the 13 big appropriations bills needed to keep the government running.

Those measures, which follow the broad outlines of the balanced-budget legislation, must be passed and signed by President Clinton by

October 1, the start of the new federal fiscal year. Otherwise the government must shut down, unless all parties agree to a "continuing resolution" to keep the government in operation. So far, the House has finished work on eight of the 13 bills, and the Senate 10. But not one has reached the Oval Office.

Complicating the task is the new presidential line-item veto authority, which Clinton has already used to kill three provisions in the balanced-budget legislation.

"As they sit down to hash things out, one of the things the appropriators will want is assurances from the White House that the president won't use the line-item veto. And that's going to eat up most of September," Mason predicted.

In addition, if Congress intends to override Clinton's previous line-item vetoes, it has 30 days to act. Also, Clinton's line-item veto authority almost certainly will face a legal challenge.

Among the major issues Congress is expected to quickly take up is a presidential request for "fast-track" authority to negotiate multilateral trade treaties. The legislation would allow such pacts to get an up-or-down vote within 90 days, without being encumbered by amendments. This authority expired at the end of 1994.

Another high-priority item is the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, which expires September 30. Lawmakers representing competing regional inter-

ests will have to agree on how to divvy up \$157 billion in assorted transportation programs around the country.

Also awaiting congressional action is the proposed \$368.5 million legal settlement between the tobacco industry and state attorneys general.

Beyond those issues, GOP congressional leaders are divided over what to do — if anything.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Livingston, R-La., would like to get the 13 funding measures enacted and then adjourn for the year, allowing members to go home and boast about their accomplishments.

"Rather than stomping on our own lines, we ought to just relax awhile. We've had a good year; this is a crowning achievement," he said, referring to enactment of the five-year balanced-budget accord.

But some congressional GOP strategists, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich, are contemplating "broad themes" to be articulated in the run-up to the off-year elections.

"I believe we will have a vision in September and October that ... will move us into the '98 campaign with a clear choice for America's future. That will set the stage for the 2000 campaign," Gingrich said in a recent interview with the *National Journal* magazine.

Not everyone foresees an autumn filled with discord.

"I actually don't anticipate the kind of utter collapse and partisan warfare that some see," said Thomas E. Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institution. "That doesn't serve in Clinton's interest or the Republican majority's interest."

The 13 funding bills, because of their must-pass nature, already are attracting an array of controversial amendments, on issues ranging from abortion to arts funding. Any one could cause prolonged wrangling.

Two festering disputes over contested election results could generate some of the most partisan rhetoric. House and Senate Democrats alike have threatened to disrupt all legislative business except for the appropriations bills unless Republicans stop investigating alleged irregularities in the 1996 Senate election of Maryland Rep. Jennings and the House election of

Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., over Republican Robert Dornan. Bicameral disruptions also could occur over campaign finance reform.

Advocates have threatened to gum up the works unless GOP leaders agree to their request to allocate floor time for a full debate on whether to revamp the nation's election financing laws.

So far, GOP leaders in both chambers have refused to do so. A further breakdown of bipartisanship looms with resumption of hearings on campaign fund-raising activities by the Senate Governmental Reform and Oversight Committee, chaired by partisan firebrand Dan Burton, R-Ind., is expected soon to begin its own, much-delayed hearings.

One of the more high-profile fights involves Clinton's appointment of newly retired Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld, a Republican, to be ambassador to Mexico. Senator Jesse Helms, R-N.C., is refusing to grant Weld a hearing before his Foreign Relations Committee — to the consternation of not only the Senate Democrats but also some of Helms's own GOP colleagues.

On taxes, Republicans plan to debate further cuts and whether to reform, or even abolish, the Internal Revenue Service.

Gingrich promises to fight Clinton's efforts to modify the welfare reform law enacted last year.

Education reform is also on the GOP agenda. In the final hours of the balanced-budget negotiations, Republicans abandoned one of their cherished goals: the establishment of "education IRAs" that would allow parents to use tax-sheltered funds for public or private school tuitions. Republicans, led by Gingrich and Sen. Paul Coverdell, R-Ga., intend to revisit the "school choice" issue.

Some Republicans intend to push tort reform and affirmative action, while Democrats plan a new push to raise the minimum wage.

Whatever else the 105th Congress does, however, nothing can top what it already has achieved, says Roger H. Davidson, a congressional analyst and a University of Maryland professor of government and politics.

After the budget deal, he says, "anything else would be anticlimactic." (The Los Angeles Times)

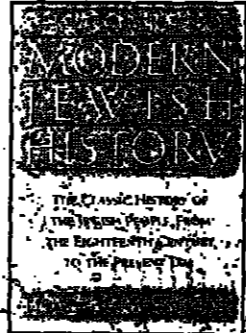
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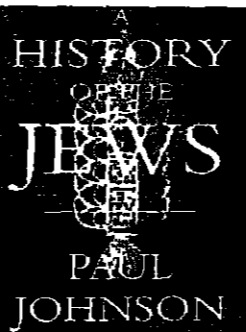
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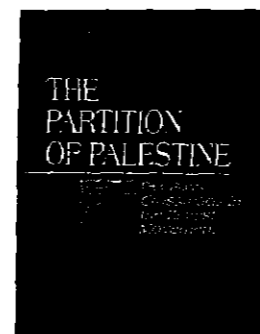
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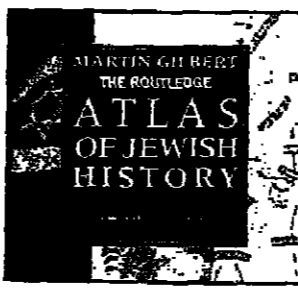
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Japan's UFO mecca

By ALLEN WAN

HAKUI, Japan — If the day comes that aliens decide to land on Earth, they could do worse than visit this little fishing town.

Long known for seafood and beaches, "Hakui" now draws tourists from around the world for its obsession with UFOs, as the town's UFO-themed restaurants, pachinko pinball gaming centers, bars and hot-spring resorts attest.

At the center of this celestial activity is the town's most popular attraction, "Cosmo Isle Hakui," a UFO and space-museum shaped, of course, as a large flying saucer. "The driving force behind the museum, located in Ishiyama prefecture's rugged Noto peninsula, along the Sea of Japan coast, is its director, Jitsuo Takano, a scientist and UFO buff who has turned a life-long hobby into a paying job."

Takano's electronics background and leadership of the town's mystery club, convinced town fathers to cough up public funds to build the museum, which opened in July 1996.

"We have three themes: space and space development, SETI or the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, and then UFOs," Takano, SETI and UFO Science Museum, Hakui Zente director, said.

The museum has space-related equipment from the US and Russia, on display, UFO-related materials, a library and a research center. Information on UFOs, alien abductions, crop circles, UFO contacts and radio transmissions related to SETI.

Vice director Takashi Ishiyama said local officials tried to UFOs to revitalize the town after its population plummeted because of an exodus by young people to the cities.

"Usually governments wouldn't participate in this kind of thing. But with our government's lead and attention from the mass media, everyone started talking about the myths associated with this town," Ishiyama said.

The town, which boasts the most reported UFO sightings in Japan, is steeped in "alien" folklore and legend.

"There is one legend called 'shobachinon' which says cyborg-like flashing lights were seen flying from one end of the mountain to the other," said Ishiyama.

being taken away in a big 'nabe' [saw] pan while playing." But it is the town's ancient Ketataisha shrine, regarded as one of the four main shrines in Japan, that may hold the key to the town's preoccupation with strange phenomena.

"Ancient documents kept in the town's Ketataisha shrine talk about flashing lights in the sky and the hand of God controlling them. The story has been passed down from generation to generation," Ishiyama said.

Although there was opposition from residents at first to using tax money for the museum, they finally came around to the idea as much out of curiosity as the commercial possibilities.

Around the corner from the museum is the UFO-ranzen (Chinese poodles) restaurant, which serves up a heaping bowl of noodles garnished with little octopus balls shaped like aliens.

After a long day of sightseeing, visitors can also relax at the town's Euphoria hot springs.

Further north are some of the region's most famous hot-spring resorts, which draw tourists from Taiwan and elsewhere who have made the museum a necessary stop on their tour.

Officials expect 200,000 people to visit this year.

"I don't believe in UFOs but this is interesting nevertheless," said housewife Masako Minuma, as she eyed the burned shell of the actual Russian space capsule Vostok used to make the first manned space flight in 1961.

Takano said the aim of the museum is not just to attract tourists, but to become a leading research center for people interested in researching and studying UFOs.

Hakui has hosted several international space and UFO conferences in the past and the last one in May, held in the museum, attracted top scientists and researchers from the US Naval Research Center and NASA's SETI Institute.

Takano said he started to believe in the existence of alien life after obtaining declassified US top-secret information.

"The conclusion is the unpleasant possibility that there have been alien visitors to our planet or alien-controlled UFOs," he said. (Reuters)

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Princes of hearts

After the death of their devoted mother, many fret over the emotional destiny of Diana's sons

By DEAN E. MURPHY

LONDON — They were described as brave and courageous, princes of boys who showed a stiff upper lip just four hours after being told about their mother's death.

Prince William and Prince Harry, in black ties and somber faces, attended regular Sunday church services in Scotland, arriving aside their father in a dark limousine with oversized windows. Their blank gazes appeared Monday morning at every London newsstand — precisely according to royal plan.

"The shell-shocked boys were doing what the Queen and Prince Charles would have explained to them was their duty," wrote Ingrid Seward, editor of *Majesty* magazine. "This routine of duty is traditionally what has always helped the royal family overcome its grief, in public at least." It is also what would have infuriated their late mother.

"It was absolutely appalling to take those kids to church, business as usual," said Meg Henderson, a Scottish novelist and foster mother. "The vicar was amazed at how dry-eyed and controlled they were. It is a terrible situation for children at that age to be dry-eyed and controlled." As official London obsessed Monday over the funeral arrangements for Princess Diana, her life's biggest ambition — the raising of her two sons as royals with a human face — was fast becoming her most urgent and worrisome legacy.

William, 15, and Harry, 12, had planned to fly to London on Monday to greet their mother upon her return from a French holiday. Instead, they were being consoled by Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, at Balmoral, the royal Scottish palace, as their father struggled with his new role as single parent.

The fretting over the two royal boys is straightforward: With their larger-than-life mother gone, are they destined to grow up like their father, a stiff and emotionally rigid man who considered his own childhood cold and lonely? Are Charles



Prince William (left) and Prince Harry are driven from church with their father, Prince Charles, after hearing the news of their mother's death. (AP)

and the rest of the royal family up to the task of grooming a popular 21st-century monarch à la sensitive Diana? "There is going to have to be a very drastic reassessment of what goes on behind the palace walls because Prince Charles, as with all fathers in a divorce situation, spends very little time with his boys," royal chronicler Christopher Wilson told reporters. "He is going to have to reorder his life."

The Diana vs. Charles rift in royal child rearing goes back well before the princess's death. In June 1991, when William was accidentally hit on the head with a golf club while at boarding school, Diana's reservations about her husband's hands-off fathering made headlines. While William lay in the hospital awaiting surgery on his skull, Charles excused himself to host a party for visiting European officials.

Biographer Andrew Morton quoted a friend of the princess later saying: "Flad this been an isolated incident it would have been unbelieve-

able. She wasn't surprised. It merely confirmed everything she thought about him." Charles, meanwhile, confided to friends that Diana sometimes assumed his absenteeism by scheduling family events when he was already committed elsewhere. Biographer Jonathan Dimbleby said Charles held his friends to a vow of silence so as not to provoke a "surge in 'tit-for-tat' articles" that would open the monarchy to ridicule.

Even if Charles succeeds as a more attentive father, some fear the Windsor boys have lost so much in their departed mother that nothing short of a miracle can assure her dreams for them are ever realized.

"The chances are great that the royal-family machine gets hold of the two boys and makes them into Charleses," said a Diana mourner near Kensington Palace. "There is no one else in that family to give them their human touch." In her last interview before her death, Diana said she would have long ago left Britain but for concern for her sons. Overwhelmed by her own royal

debut 17 years ago, the princess was determined to prepare the boys for upcoming responsibilities — while ensuring they had a good time like other kids and experienced the world beyond privilege.

The princess instituted "fun days" and "work days" for the princes, dressing them in jeans and baseball caps for a bite to eat at McDonald's, a movie or a ride on a roller coaster. On work days, the boys had to dress properly, shake hands and "forget any thoughts of selfishness," she once explained. "When they begin, they will be properly prepared," Diana said. "I am making sure of this. I don't want them suffering in the way that I did."

But suffering, it seems, is as enduring as royalty itself. Tall, with his mother's good looks and bashful glance, William soured on life in the royal fish bowl even before last weekend's accident, which some attribute to the relentless media attention paid to his mother. Royal sources let it be known last

year that the queen and Charles were deeply concerned that the young heir to the throne was becoming hostile to his public role. British media reported that he turned down opportunities to travel with his mother because he hated being stalked by photographers. The king-to-be reportedly dreads the thought of assuming the high-profile crown.

While both boys will obviously be devastated by the loss of their mother, there is less public hand-wringing over Harry, who is younger, happy-go-lucky and shoulders little of the burden of his brother's royal destiny.

William, by contrast, is withdrawn and was painfully aware of his parents' unhappy marriage and his mother's every up and down. When sobbing Diana used to lock herself in the bathroom, William would push issues under the door. It was the budding royal heartthrob who suggested his mother conduct a charity auction of her evening gowns and urged her to look outside Britain for personal happiness if need be.

"The most wonderful thing is that Prince William has all of the best attributes of Diana, and she will live on through Prince William," said businessman Richard Branson, a longtime friend of the princess, during a television tribute to her. "It obviously would have been wonderful if she could have given him a few more years, but I think most of his formative years are already there."

Others are less certain. Amid the throng of mourners at Kensington and Buckingham palaces, the princes have been wary No. 1. Notes to Diana promise to look after her sons, while others offer prayers for their safety. Some fear unrealistic expectations could ruin another life.

"William is the only glamorous member of the family and he has to come out into the open and bat for the royal family in a big way," said Wilson, the royal author. "I think that is going to be very hard." (Los Angeles Times)

British invasion

The UK strives to block illegal immigration through Channel Tunnel

By WILLIAM D. MONTALBANO

LONDON — Along with the tourists and traders speeding in air-conditioned comfort through the Channel Tunnel linking Britain and the rest of Europe, increasing numbers of undocumented immigrants are arriving in London seeking political asylum.

The traffic is orchestrated, British officials say, by legally savvy and technologically sophisticated people movers — a tony European version of the "coyotes" who work the Rio Grande.

Alarmed at the growing traffic, Britain and France began scrambling last week to stop the flow — mostly from developing nations — made possible by an embarrassing loophole in regulations governing rail travel through the 31-mile tunnel.

The Gare du Nord, the Paris terminus of the cross-channel Eurostar train, is the smugglers' den, officials say. There, Africans, Asians and Eastern Europeans — who typically pay thousands of dollars to organizers for illegal passage to Britain — board Eurostar trains bound for London.

Until French police began random checks last week, there were no document controls at the Gare du Nord. It has been easy for illegal travelers to embark in Paris and "lose" their nonexistent documents on the train.

At London's Waterloo Station, the travelers simply announce to British immigration officers that they have no papers and are fleeing persecution in their homeland. The claims are often bogus, but under British law the mere assertion of persecution guarantees a four-month stay and the prospect of at least a year more of subsidized living as legal appeals are pursued.

"Every criminal gang in Europe knows that Eurostar is an open door to London. It is the only way to get into Britain without a document," said John Tincey, an immigration inspector and spokesman for Britain's immigration workers union.

"This no longer is ordinary illegal immigration but a coordinated criminal assault on a wide-open breach in our frontiers. It started with Somalis, spread to Turks, and now criminals in other countries are joining in," Tincey said.

From January to June, 404 Somalis without documents arrived in Britain, 229 of them at Waterloo by train. In July alone, more than 400 other Somalis without papers arrived at Waterloo, according to a spokesman for the Home Office, which is responsible for international security.

During one weekend this month, 118 Somalis and 42 Turks walked off trains from France to request asylum. Officials say Paris is the preferred jumping-off point for the people smugglers because service from there is more frequent than from Brussels, Belgium — the other major continental terminus — and Paris offers a larger multi-ethnic community in which to operate.

"We were near meltdown that day at Waterloo; the staff couldn't cope," Tincey said. "It takes around five hours to an immigration officer to complete the initial interview with an asylum seeker."

Under British law, a person requesting asylum cannot be expelled from British soil. Such people are housed, fed and cared for at government expense until a tribunal rules on their claims — by which time many have gone underground, intending to remain illegally.

In theory, there are no longer frontier controls in the 15-nation European Community, but island Britain insists on tightly controlling its borders. There are special walk-through lanes for Europeans arriving in this country by air or ferry, but all others, including Americans, face potentially long lines and one-by-one examination by an immigration officer.

Airlines and ferries that bring undocumented passengers into Britain face fines of around \$3,000 a person.

When regulations for the Channel train were drawn up, however, frontier-free was the byword, and train operators were exempted from such liability. So Eurostar does not check documents either in Britain or at its terminals in France and Belgium.

As it competes with airlines in the time-is-money world of international transportation, Eurostar prides itself on its short check-in times: as little as 10 minutes before departure for first-class passengers, 20 minutes for others. Travel time from central Paris to central London is three hours.

Britain's Home Office said that when the number of asylum seekers began to swell, British Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien demanded that Eurostar officials "tackle without delay the problem of asylum seekers arriving without proper documents."

"We fully agree that there is a problem, and we are working with our colleagues in the French national railways to find a permanent solution," Leslie Retailack, a spokesman for Eurostar, said last week.

Making Eurostar liable is being considered, O'Brien said. The company could be required to establish expensive document checks and perhaps also to increase check-in times.

The new random document checks by French police at the Gare du Nord are being applauded, but O'Brien describes them as "a temporary solution." According to Home Office figures, there are about 53,000 asylum cases awaiting final decision in Britain, the second-largest number in Western Europe. Because of its borders with Eastern European countries, Germany has about 10 times as many.

As in the United States, examiners find that most people who arrive in Britain from developing countries are fleeing poverty more than politics.

Nearly all asylum requests in Britain are eventually rejected. Among 3,710 decisions made on requests by citizens of India last year, five applicants were granted asylum and 15 others were given exceptional leave to remain in Britain.

Britain has also had its fair share of desperate stowaways. Last March, a 12-year-old Kenyan boy was found dead in the wheel assembly of a 747 after it arrived in London on a flight from Nairobi.

A few months earlier, the body of Vijay Saini fell into a London suburb after he froze to death in the landing gear bay of a plane arriving from New Delhi. His brother, Pardeep, survived the flight.

Last week, as hopeful Somalis and Turks rolled through the Channel Tunnel to London, the Home Office refused Pardeep Saini's appeal for asylum. The government says it will review his case. (The Los Angeles Times)

Alberto Fujimori's hangover

By ANTHONY FAIOLA

LIMA, Peru — After his action film-like siege of the Japanese ambassador's home in April to free hostages from the clutches of Tupac Amaru terrorists, people in this Andean nation joked that President Alberto Fujimori should be made the undisputed emperor of Peru.

But no one in Lima is laughing any longer. Fujimori has plunged the country into political crisis as a series of major scandals has damaged his popularity and caused observers to question whether his government is becoming a thinly veiled dictatorship.

The mounting allegations against Fujimori's government include domestic espionage, wire-tapping, torture, and harassment of political opponents and journalists. His government also is taking actions against press freedom,

including a move to revoke the citizenship of Baruch Ivcher, an Israeli-born Peruvian who runs a TV station critical of Fujimori.

That leading politicians are finding fault with Fujimori is not surprising. But perhaps more telling is that he is losing the support of the masses. Thousands of Peruvians have staged massive anti-government demonstrations, and five leading ministers have stepped down in protest.

Still, there is no indication that Fujimori is in danger of losing power; on the contrary, the moves that have proven so unpopular appear to have strengthened his grip on Peru.

The turn of events is characteristic of Fujimori's odyssey from political acolyte to the most controversial and highest-profile South American politician of the 1990s.

In a poverty-stricken country where the majority are of mixed Indian and European blood,

Fujimori, of Japanese descent, was the first political and social outsider to become president. He used his strong grass-roots backing — and close ties to the Peruvian army — to wage war against two guerrilla insurgencies, virtually annihilating the violent Shining Path and Tupac Amaru movements. He curtailed hyperinflation and brought unprecedented foreign investment.

But in 1992, he committed what opponents called a coup d'etat by dissolving Congress and dramatically increasing executive powers with the help of the military and his own shadowy intelligence machine, headed by Vladimiro Montesinos. Montesinos has no official title, reports only to Fujimori, and reportedly earns an annual \$600,000.

The security services have been at the forefront of the crisis since April, when it was revealed that Leonor La

Rosa, an army undercover agent who reportedly leaked information about a plan to silence opposition journalists through threats and physical abuse, was tortured.

Ivcher's station led the coverage of La Rosa's accounts and began reporting on Montesinos's salary and other allegations against the intelligence agency. Fujimori's government moved to revoke Ivcher's citizenship, claiming he was a secret arms dealer who fed weapons to Ecuador during his brief 1995 border war with Peru. Ivcher is currently holed up in Miami while he fights the government's charges, which are widely viewed in Peru as untrue.

Fujimori's move against Ivcher prompted a letter from Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman saying the move had damaged US-Peruvian relations. In July, the news magazine *Caretas* claimed that Fujimori had come to Peru with his parents

when they emigrated from Japan, and that his parents had doctored his birth certificate to make it appear he was born in Miraflores, an upscale neighborhood in Lima. In a rare public statement on the matter, Fujimori told reporters that he would "welcome" an investigation to confirm his heritage.

Last week, tensions escalated over allegations that Fujimori had spied on Perez de Cuellar during the 1995 campaign. A local television station produced a thick document containing the text of over 1,000 of Perez de Cuellar's telephone conversations, supposedly intercepted by government intelligence operatives over the past three years. The calls revealed detailed information about the Perez campaign strategy, including names of campaign leaders who were later allegedly followed, harassed and, in some cases, physically attacked. (The Washington Post)

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Free Azzam Azzam

The sentencing of Azzam Azzam to 15 years' imprisonment at hard labor has dealt a serious blow to the foundations of the peace between Israel and Egypt, to Egypt's standing as a mediator in the peace process, and to Egypt's bid to be taken seriously as a civilized member of the world community and economy.

The "evidence" against Azzam, a Druse Israeli textile machinery technician, was a collection of sportswear that was supposedly soaked in invisible ink. Azzam supposedly passed the ink to others, who used it to report on Egyptian industrial practices.

The prosecution did not bother to submit the alleged ink for outside inspection, perhaps because its entire case was absurd from top to bottom. An experienced Egyptian lawyer, who had been a prosecutor in the same court, defended Azzam and was convinced that the court did not have enough evidence to charge his client, let alone convict him.

Outside observers were less sanguine about Azzam's chances in court all along. The security court in question is part of a system established to enforce the emergency laws that have been in place since the assassination of president Anwar Sadat in 1981. These courts have been used to convict large numbers of the fundamentalist Egyptian opposition, usually in trials lasting a matter of days.

The fact that Azzam's trial lasted for months indicates that even Egypt's toughest court did not treat this as a normal case. As the case went on, the Egyptian press had by and large already convicted Azzam, though some commentators, perhaps sensing that he was innocent, suggested that judgment be reserved until the court decided.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, for his part, knows full well that Azzam is innocent. President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, opposition leader Ehud Barak, and MK Yossi Sarid have all given Mubarak their word that Azzam is innocent.

Yet in this case Mubarak did not do what he did in the case of David Ovitz, an Israeli charged with espionage in 1992. Within a few days of the start of the Ovitz trial, Mubarak was assured by prime minister Yitzhak Shamir that he was no spy, and Ovitz was deported from Egypt.

By allowing the trial to play its course and

reach a verdict, Mubarak has gotten himself into a much greater bind. Now if he grants Azzam a pardon, or simply deports him, he will be seen in Egypt as bowing to international dictates and undermining his security courts. The implications of inaction, however, are even worse: the suspicion that Mubarak either accepts, or even favors, the imprisonment of an innocent Israeli, and the blow to Egypt's claim to a central role in the peace process.

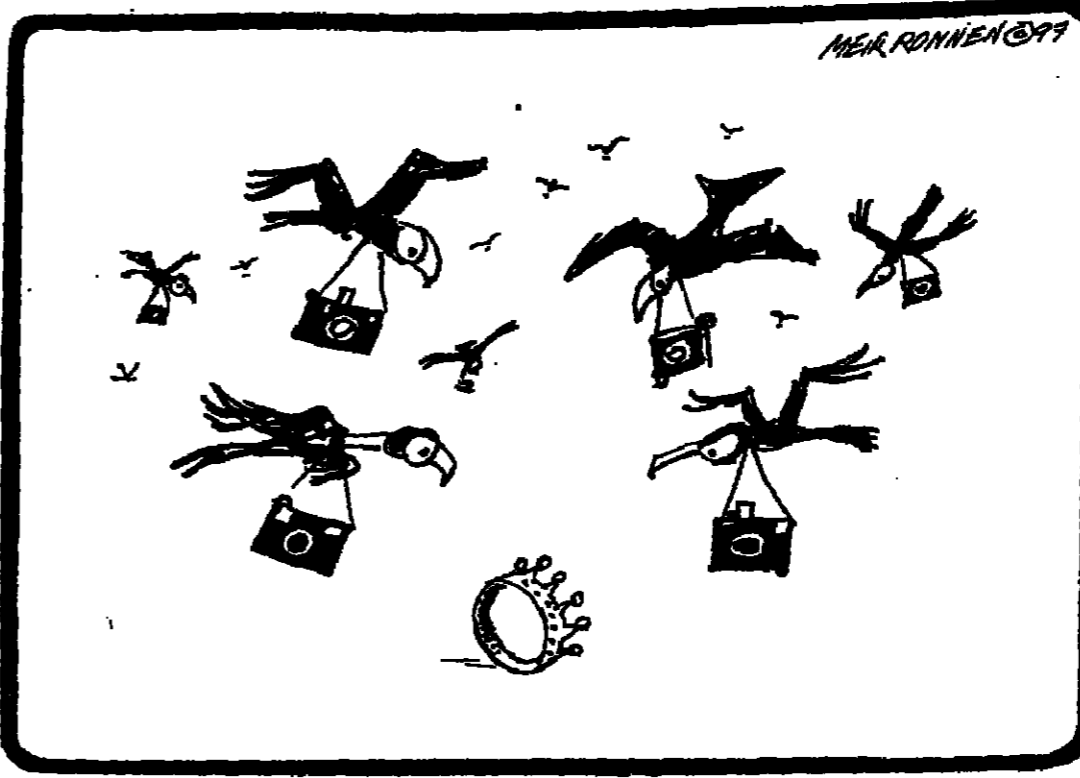
It would be wrong to underestimate the powerful impact Azzam's conviction has and will have on Israeli support for the peace process, particularly among those who have been its greatest supporters. Just as the Israeli Left became disillusioned with the PLO when it supported Iraq in the Gulf War, and Palestinians cheered on the roof tops as Scud missiles fell on Israel; the Azzam Azzam trial punctures the faith that Arab hatred of Israel can be conquered.

That such a trial could take place in Egypt, after almost 20 years of peace with Israel, sends the kind of shock waves through Israeli minds as the Dreyfus trial did for Theodor Herzl over a century ago.

Whatever lack of trust exists between Mubarak and Netanyahu, it can be no excuse for allowing such an act of feudal barbarism to continue. Israel must quickly explore whether Mubarak is willing to find a way to free Azzam. If not, Israel should be clear about the consequences: the end of Egypt's mediating role in the peace process.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright should also make clear on her upcoming visit that Azzam's continued imprisonment will affect both Egypt's standing as a "strategic partner" in the peace process, as well as Congress's attitude towards aid to Egypt.

Azzam's family, after meeting with Netanyahu, met with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky. They made the right choice, because Azzam Azzam is a political prisoner, pure and simple. Egypt must choose whether it wants to be viewed as a latter day Soviet Union, or the first Arab nation to make peace with Israel. Azzam's trial is over; the trial before Mubarak is whether he will salvage Egypt's role as a leader in peace, or stand by as that role drowns in court-sanctioned hatred.



Syria's missed chances

Not all is bright with Madeleine Albright's forthcoming visit to the region. The delegations from Israel and the Palestinian Authority now in Washington will try to work out a series of confidence-building measures so as to prevent Congress from holding up economic aid to the Palestinians, as well as enabling Albright to leave the region claiming progress has been made on the Israel-Palestinian track.

But beyond the urgent Palestinian issue, the secretary is also aiming to get the Syrian track moving.

For some time, Washington has been trying to prevent the formation of a Tehran-Damascus axis. They assume that a settlement with Israel, satisfactory to Assad, could be the foundation stone of such a development. Before Israel made agreements with Jordan and the PLO, the US tried to persuade Jerusalem that without a prior Israel-Syria accord, Jordan would not sign a peace treaty with Israel.

On four occasions the US conveyed messages to Syria concerning Israel's willingness to make far-reaching concessions. Twice the US went beyond what it had heard from Israel, and even so no progress was made.

The first time, on June 19, 1967, Israel informed the US government that it was willing to open negotiations with Syria on the basis of a return to the international border. Secretary of state Dean Rusk was requested not to reveal this to the Syrians before direct Israel-Syria negotiations began.

The Americans didn't keep the secret but still the Syrians refused to negotiate. Israel canceled its decision concerning the international border.

Twenty-six years later, on August 3, 1993, Yitzhak Rabin agreed to an American hypothetical: the Americans would inform Assad that Israel was willing to talk to him on the basis of a return to the 1967 borders, on condition that he agreed to a phased withdrawal over five years, and pro-

MOSHE ZAK

vided full normalization and appropriate security arrangements. There's no way of knowing whether the Americans did present Israel's agreement as hypothetical, but the Syrians were pleased to see that their patience had been rewarded: immediately after the Six Day War Israel had agreed to discussions on the basis of the international border; now they were agreeing to an extra

We should not specify what we are ready to offer to Syria before direct negotiations begin

step - withdrawal to the pre-Six Day War lines.

Nevertheless the Syrians didn't snap up the offer that Warren Christopher brought from Jerusalem. Christopher, instead of shuttling between Jerusalem and Damascus, was left to take a holiday in California.

CHRISTOPHER'S lack of success in Damascus settled a dispute between Rabin and Shimon Peres. Rabin wanted an agreement with the Syrians first, but Peres was pressing for an agreement with the Palestinians first. Rabin accepted this and sent Peres to Christopher in California to get American support for the Oslo agreement.

The third time a concession was offered was in May 1994. Once again, the Americans informed Assad that Israel was ready to withdraw from all of the Golan Heights under certain conditions. The Americans tried to persuade Israel that Jordan's King Hussein would not move until he got a signal from Assad.

This time Rabin didn't agree with the Americans. He increased his efforts to reach a peace treaty with Hussein and totally rejected

the American interpretation that he had agreed to a total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal to the June 4 lines.

Finally, on the day of Rabin's funeral in November 1995, President Clinton asked Peres to agree to the American interpretation of the 1993 hypothetical exercise, in other words to agree that Israel accepted full withdrawal to the June 4, 1967 borders.

Peres had received a briefing from then-ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich that Rabin didn't accept this formula. But Peres ignored the ambassador's warning and told Clinton, "If Rabin agreed, I agree." This statement was passed on to Assad. The Syrian president did not seize the opportunity, and refused to meet Peres to begin the negotiating process.

When Netanyahu was elected he was asked by the Americans whether he agreed they could convey to Assad that he accepted the "whole Golan" formula.

After checking with Rabinovich he refused, because Rabin had only agreed to a hypothetical exercise, not to a total withdrawal. Assad kicked up a fuss, claiming Israel was retreating from previous agreements. In fact, there never had been an agreement on withdrawal to the June 4 borders.

This is the situation facing Albright on her first visit to the region. She will want to hear from Jerusalem what messages she can pass on to Assad, what new concessions Israel is willing to make.

With all due respect to Albright, much as we want to make progress towards an agreement with Syria - which would also be the first step towards peace in Lebanon - the questions at the root of the bilateral negotiations are best left unanswered. We should not count our chickens before they are hatched, and we should not specify what we are ready to offer to Syria before the negotiations begin.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Regal love

RUTHIE BLUM

The death of Diana Spencer was no less the stuff fairy tales are made of than the rest of her short life. Escaping overly-zealous paparazzi with her current suitor - heir to the throne of Harrods - the Princess of Wales was killed in a horrific chariot wreck.

Instantly, the entire world pressed the pause button on other issues, such as war and famine, to lower its head in mourning. The beloved "princess of the people" was gone.

No sooner did heads return to an upright position, however, than the accusations began to fly. The usual suspects were rounded up, with the media the favored target for finger-pointing.

Diana's brother announced that he had always thought the press would kill his sister; he just hadn't imagined they would be so directly involved in her death. Britons of all walks of life wept as they hurled epithets at journalists; the old debates on the role and responsibility of the media were dusted off and put back on the table for rehashing.

Mind you, without the media, Diana's brother would not have been able to bring this sentiment into my living room via a televised press conference. Nor would the weeping Britons-in-the-street - so angry at photographers that they wanted the whole world to know it - be accompanying my children as they prepared their book bags for the new school year.

As a matter of fact, if it weren't for the media, I'd be lucky to have heard of Lady Di altogether. I certainly would not have had the honor of being a guest at her wedding (such a privileged guest, in fact, that I was allowed to attend in informal attire, and go to the bathroom in mid-ceremony.) I would not have known

The media will play no small role in keeping her as alive as Evita or Elvis

about her husband's true love, Camilla; nor would I have known about her mother-in-law troubles; nor about her post-partum depression; nor her bulimia. Nor would it have occurred to her or to anybody else to tell me. Unless that person was her biographer, and she'd been dead so long that her story was part of a matriculation exam I was taking.

This is not to say that her story holds no interest for me. On the contrary, I plead guilty to fascination with famous royal families in general, and modern-day princesses in particular. (Especially with one whose marriage, child-bearing, and divorce coincided almost eerily with my own. Perhaps it's a good thing that no cameramen have reason to be taunting me these days.)

Nor is this a way of minimizing the inclination - irresistible to princes and paupers alike - to parade in front of microphones and cameras when given half a chance. If a mother of a dead child emerging from a burning building is willing to share the first moments of her grief with TV crews, why in God's name wouldn't a kindergarten teacher who married a prince want a little limelight?

WHEN that limelight shined on her at a most flattering angle, would she really have shunned it? After all, though it was clearly the star quality she already possessed which made her the photo-op phenomenon she became, it was the media who made her a household name all over the globe. Undoubtedly, too, the media will play no small role in keeping her as alive as Evita or Elvis. Which is what she or any other self-respecting cult figure would have wanted. She was human, too, after all.

Neither the pursuit of stardom nor the pursuit of star-gazing is foreign to any of us. Indeed, voyeurism is a lot more common, even among the best brought up and educated, than is normally admitted. Ditto with regard to raw ambition. The only difference between these opposite sides of the same coin is that while some peeping toms attend royal functions from afar, others achieve the kind of success which guarantees their being on the official guest lists of such functions.

Diana may have been loved by the people for being a down-to-earth sort of princess; but let there be no mistake: it was the princess in Diana that the media, the mobs and the lady herself all wanted to bask in promoting.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROMPTLY DENOUNCED

Sir, - While reading *The Jerusalem Post* on September 1, I found a section reprinted from *The New York Times* in which there was a picture of "Rabbi" Moshe Hirsch warmly shaking the hand of the arch-terrorist Arafat, with a caption reading "Many rabbis have spurned the secular vision of a Jewish homeland. In 1994 Rabbi Moshe Hirsch of the Orthodox and anti-Zionist Neturei Karta sect welcomed PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Jericho."

I wish to take issue with this photo, and this caption, on a two grounds. First off, a Jewish homeland is not a

purely secular vision, by any means; the question within Orthodoxy is not whether a Jewish sovereign state in Eretz Yisrael should exist, but whether it should exist before the coming of the Messiah.

Secondly, and more importantly, the caption implies that "many rabbis" approve Hirsch's actions, when even his own group, Neturei Karta, arguably one of the most anti-Zionist Orthodox groups, promptly denounced Hirsch's actions.

YEHOASHUA KAHAN
Jerusalem.

VIVID IMAGINATION

Sir, - I see that Jonathan Rosenblum has a very vivid imagination for fiction (August 15). No woman would ever call a *tallit* a *shimane*. Even if she didn't know the word *tallit* she would use some other word, like "prayer shawl."

Do we have to believe that some Jews "have raised millions of dollars to import women to put on *shimanes* at the Western Wall?"

So a young man at the Western Wall said "Give me a sign," and a rabbi tapped him on the shoulder, and now he has been in a yeshiva for 18 years. Is there a connection between this and the fact that 18 is considered a "lucky number"?

My wonder is why that man, if he exists, or someone like him, stays in a yeshiva for 18 years. Why doesn't such a man come out into the world where he can take part in his work?

Jonathan Rosenblum does not realize that the Western Wall is not only a place filled with memories

of the past. It is a central Jewish symbol, and as such should and must be a place for the expression of ideas and hopes for the present and the future. And the hope that women, and not only men, may have the right to speak to God in their own way, is an idea that is worthy of support of all modern liberal people.

Rosenblum says that the ongoing confrontation over egalitarian *minyanim* at the Western Wall owes more to politics than to religion. We ask him, "Just to what politics?" Are these women members of some political party?

He asks why those women should want to put on a *tallit* at the Western Wall. But they have been putting on *tallitim* in many egalitarian *minyanim* in America and elsewhere. He says that such a thing is "not from Sinai." Is men's use of a *tallit* "from Sinai"?

ARNOLD SALTER
Tel Aviv.

A TOUCH OF PARENTING

Sir, - Where were you, Ruth Mason, 20 years ago, when we were new parents? ("Communicating through massage," August 20, 1997).

If only we knew the "the importance of touch, quiet time, and of communicating love concretely to our baby." But I guess we weren't fortunate enough to have this great insight. Anyway, we could never have found the time to massage our babies, not with all the cuddling, bouncing, nuzzling, snuggled-up-together-bedtime-story-reading, wrestling, swimming, swinging, sliding and climbing we did for hours on end with our babies - and with great, mutual joy and love.

Glad to read today's parents won't make the same mistakes we oldies did!

MARIAN AND ZVI CIVINS
Jerusalem.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Sir, - I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the management of the Gil Cinemas at the Jerusalem Mall.

After the Mahaneh Yehuda bomb, staff at the MDA and all the Jerusalem hospitals worked extra hard physically and emotionally. The Gil chain sent us at Bikur Cholim Hospital 40 complimentary tickets to a preview showing of "Me Bean."

It really warmed my heart. So, once again, heartfelt thanks.

ANGELA BEN-GUR
Radiographer at Bikur Cholim Hospital
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 3, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that a summary action taken by administrative courts in Hadera resulted in 15 persons, all of them Jews, being sentenced to one year's imprisonment, each in connection with the recent murders of four Arabs at Karkur. Revisionists were arrested in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. An Arab constable was killed at the Adit beach.

50 years ago: On September 3, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that Great Britain was wary of the UN Special Committee on Palestine report.

A British officer at Poppendorf Camp in Germany, which had been prepared for the Exodus 1947 refugees, said it was the most wretched and abominable accommodation he had ever seen. Explosion wrecked an illegal arms workshop in Tel Aviv's Rehov Basel.

The Palestine Government asked for the forfeiture of four ships which carried some 8,000 "illegal" immigrants to Palestine and were intercepted in territorial waters.

The Examining Magistrate had dismissed the application of Nehemia Rubowitz asking for a

public inquiry into the kidnapping and an apparent murder of his son, Alexander, who was abducted by Major Farran on May 6.

25 years ago: On September 3, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Prime Minister Golda Meir said that while Israel wanted to be flexible, Sadat could not get the whole of Sinai as in 1956. The Chief of Staff, Lt-Gen. David Elazar said Israel expected a lull in the military situation and is considering shortening compulsory military service.

Alexander Zvielli

DISK-COVERY



Nehama the Louse: Home is where the head is. (Moshe Trivak)

It's lousy - but not so bad!

By JUDY SEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Hakina Nehama (Nehama the Louse), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, produced by CD-Worm of Ramat Hasharon...

Head lice are objects of repulsion in this country, where there's hardly a child who hasn't been hit by pediculosis between kindergarten and fourth grade.

Giving lice a charming new image, as this disc does won't, I hope, reduce kids' willingness to be shampooed and fine-tooth combed.

The story, which Shalev wrote and narrates in Hebrew, consists of 17 short chapters. A louse named Nehama is born on the head of a young boy named Uri...

Nehama "moves in" with the TV interviewer, and after a series of encounters meets a bald-headed man who is overjoyed to "have a head louse, like everybody else."

Beyond the text, accompanied by a pleasing musical background and lovely graphics, there are seven games, most of them pedestrian. There is a conventional drawing program; a game requiring you to maneuver a louse through a maze...

The only remotely imaginative game here is the one that shows a class of kids wearing hats: You have to click on a cap to uncover hairstyle and hair color and match them by memory.

At the end, you've saved Mike from his nasty boss. Although there is plenty to do and the games can be repeated almost endlessly, the question remains how many times a child will want to repeat the accumulation process if he knows where objects lie.

Gordi Beharpatka Mehasratim (Gordi in the Movie Adventure), two CD-ROM discs in Hebrew, produced by Comedia/Hed Artzi Multimedia...

Numerous CD-ROMs have used treasure hunts as a gimmick; many such programs are mindless assignments to collect information or objects along a series of screens and awarding a prize to the successful finder...

It's odd that the producers thought there was a need for two separate discs. The first one shows a short video clip of an impatient boss threatening a young illustrator named Mike...

It seems to me that Comedia/Hed Artzi could have done without the video clip, put the whole program on one disc and lowered the price.

Once you get into the second disc, there is a series of eight different scenes. Some of the objects are blanked out, and these you must search for in Mike's animation studio, comprising a corridor and a number of connecting rooms.

Movement through the studio feels very lifelike, as if you were virtually inside the studio yourself: you turn corners, enter doorways and climb stairs. Find a useful object and save it on the side, but since there is room for only six icons, you'll have to throw unnecessary ones into an on-screen garbage can.

At the end, you've saved Mike from his nasty boss. Although there is plenty to do and the games can be repeated almost endlessly, the question remains how many times a child will want to repeat the accumulation process if he knows where objects lie.

Mr. Mom & Ms. Dad: How are they - and their kids - faring?

Working wives don't skimp on mothering, even when father stays at home

We've heard much in recent years about stay-at-home dads, pioneers of role reversal who brave loss of income, jokes about their masculinity and the suspicion of mothers in tot loss to keep their kids out of day care.

But we haven't heard much until recently from the breadwinner mothers. No wonder: It turns out they've been busy.

According to a study presented recently at the American Psychological Association convention, many breadwinner moms revert to traditional roles when they come home from work. They make dinner, give baths and manage the bedtime routine - even when their husbands stay home 45 hours a week or more.

Unlike traditional fathers, breadwinner moms tend to know their child's schedule, friends and classes even though they are at work all day.

Despite appearances, researcher Robert Frank, a part-time teacher at Loyola University Chicago, said, "I wouldn't describe it as a 'second shift.' Maybe that's because I'm a male." Frank has been a stay-at-home dad for the last 11 years.

Some of the mom's extra work might be chalked up to vestigial guilt, Frank speculated. Society still expects mothers to be primary caregivers, no matter how demanding their jobs are. Some moms also do more at home because their standards are higher.

"My tolerance for the piles that grow is less than his," said Susan Baylies, a teacher married to Peter Baylies, editor of the Massachusetts-based newsletter At Home Dad, whose mailing list provided the subjects for Frank's study.

In Frank's family, he does almost everything, said his wife, Linda, a hospital administrator. In fact, he



Pioneers of role reversal, braving loss of income and jokes about their masculinity: An estimated 300,000 to 2 million Americans are stay-at-home dads.

does so much - dinner, dishes and laundry, arranging play dates and piano lessons and doctor visits - that she still has time for exercise and a choral group.

Inequality at home, however, is the hottest topic on a fledgling Internet E-mail discussion group for wives of stay-at-home dads. "When the kids get older," commented Linda Frank, "the dads don't have the excuse of having to chase a two-year-old around."

Inequality is also a prime topic when women get together at the At Home Dads convention, while the fathers attend a range of speakers and workshops. The second annual convention will be held in November at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois.

ESTIMATES of the number of stay-

at-home American dads range from 300,000 to two million, depending on how they are defined. Robert Frank defines them as caregivers

'Research suggests a lower level of parental stress in dad-at-home families than in traditional ones.'

who stay at home with their children at least 30 hours a week.

While stay-at-home fatherhood once appeared to be a rising trend, census figures indicate that some dads were forced home by the economy. In 1991, 20% of preschoolers were cared for by fathers, while mothers worked outside the home.

The moms who complain the most tend to be those who aren't breadwinners by choice, Linda Frank said.

"Some are pretty uptight about being their family's only financial support. They wonder, are they always going to have enough money to keep food on the table and shelter? Their families are dependent on them. What if they lose their jobs?"

Some also worry about losing attachment to their children, though

Robert Frank said his research indicates that a breadwinner mother's bond with her children isn't shaken loose when the father becomes the primary caregiver. When children are hurt or upset and both parents are available, the children still seek comfort from their working mothers as much as from their stay-at-home dads.

In another preliminary study of six families, Frank said that parental stress in at-home-dad families seems to be lower than in traditional families.

"Our society says if the kids don't come out so good, there's a sense the female didn't do a good job. And if the dad is not making big bucks and supporting his family, it's not done right," Robert Frank said.

PARENTING

Twosomes, threesomes and lonesomes

By RUTH MASON

My son has been friends with Ben, the son of a very close friend of mine, since he was two. But recently my son has been saying he doesn't want to play with Ben.

Tali's mother has also become very close with Ben's mother. When the three children play together, Ben and Tali always include my son, and they seem to

have a good time. I don't want my son to lose this friendship. How can I help him with this?

Alan J. Flashman, M.D., child psychiatrist and pediatrician, replies:

See if this annotated imaginary conversation helps you out: "Ben is not my friend anymore." The best thing to do here, as with any expression of a negative feeling, is not to argue, but to acknowledge your child's experience.

"He wants to play with Tali all the time."

"That hurts!" "And it's true. And Shirli [the kindergarten teacher] says it's not

bad, and it's fair, and I should feel okay - and don't you tell me that, because I don't."

"No, I won't tell you how to feel. If you feel bad, then that's how you feel."

"He plays with Tali, and he's not my friend!"

"That would be my first feeling, too. Not my friend! Oof!"

"Oof! Not my friend!" "Now that is one strong OOF. And it feels like real angry, and also sad, because he used to be such a good friend. Oof!"

"Oof!" "And then I just might want to see once I've done enough oofing, if I could do a second thing, or have a second feeling, too."

"I just want oof. OOOOFFFF!" At this point, you might let your

child vent for as long as he wants. Then, when he seems ready, try to show him that it is possible to get beyond anger by telling him about a similar experience, and the way you handled it.

"When Ben's mother went out to lunch with Tali's mother by themselves, I had one tremendous oof. And when I was all done with oof, I sat myself down and said, do I want to stay at oof, or do I want to go to after-oof? I said, oof is no fun, and maybe I'm done with it. I'll try after-oof. It can't do any harm. But I had trouble finding an after-oof. Could you help me?"

See what transpires from the suggestions your son makes. Maybe one of them will speak to his dilemma. Or you could offer your own suggestion: "What if I

tried to say, 'Let's be friends all three of us some of the time, you [Ben's mother] and me alone some of the time, and you and Tali's mother some of the time?'" See how he responds, then apply it to his situation.

"How about if you say, 'Ben - make time for just you and me, make time for you and Tali, make time for just me and Tali, and make time for all three of us together?'"

"Ben will play just with me?" "I bet he will some of the time. And you can think of that, while he plays with Tali sometimes. So what do you prefer right now, oof or after-oof?"

"Can you make me some chocolate milk and tell me the whole megilla again?"

Book department SYRIA AND ISRAEL From War to Peace-making. Moshe Ma'oz examines the history of relations between Israel and Syria throughout the Middle Eastern conflict...

book LIVING SYMBOLS: Symbols in Jewish Art and Tradition. Ida Huberman. The power of a living symbol lies in the contexts which give it its meanings. Animals, the Tree of Life, the conch, the menorah and more, are discussed, explored and illustrated by 159 detailed plates, many in full color.

GARDENER'S CORNER

Geraniums uncloaked

By BATSHEVA MINK and DAVID BRAUNER

Beware of the ordinary garden geranium. This botanical is an undercover agent growing under a false identity.

Most plants called geraniums are, in fact, pelargoniums. The mix-up began about 200 years ago, when botanists began classifying and naming plants. The family name for geraniums and pelargoniums was *Geraniaceae*, so the name "geranium" stuck to both.

The approximately 700 species of true geraniums are mainly natives of the northern hemisphere. They grow happily across Europe to Central Asia and Siberia, and as far east as the Himalayas.

Their less hardy relatives, the pelargoniums, are largely South African in origin but reach Africa's east coast, including Madagascar, and on to Arabia and western India. There are even a few species in Australia.

It is the varieties and hybrids of the pelargoniums that have become the popular "garden geranium."

Amateurs cannot be blamed for this error in nomenclature, as many nurseries and growers insist on calling pelargoniums "geraniums."

Many modern varieties of pelargoniums have developed as a result of cross-breeding over the last two centuries. Their roots are of three kinds - tuberous, tap-rooted, and fibrous. These are adaptations to growing in the wild.

Tuberous store water during times of drought. Tap roots penetrate deep into crevices, searching for moisture and nutrients; they store water for short periods.

The fibrous-rooted species is the most familiar. It is quite woody in the larger plants. These pelargoniums grow wide



and bushy, with sucker-like plantlets that grow at the base of the parent plant. These varieties prefer moderate moisture and adapt very well in our gardens.

Pelargoniums are inexpensive, easy to grow and, thanks to the many new varieties and colors being introduced, are rapidly shedding their "cheap and cheerful" image.

Now that we have uncloaked the pelargoniums, let's take a closer look at the most popular varieties:

Zonal pelargoniums (*Pelargonium zonale*, also known as *P. hortorum*) have a "horseshoe zone" of a darker tone on their leaves. However, some of these zonal markings have been lost because of hybridization.

The zonals are upright plants which have single or double flowers in an array of colors. They can reach heights of 2-3 m., but are better grown 60-90

cm. high.

Ivy-leaved varieties (*P. peltatum*), named for the ivy shape of their foliage, are very popular in window boxes and hanging baskets. Like true ivy, they can also be tied to supports and grown against walls or fences, or used to make a good ground cover.

The ivy-leaved types can withstand poor soil and harsh summer sun, and they do not die if you forget to water them.

Their flowers are single and double in white, pink, red, purple and lilac. After an initial burst of blossoms in the spring, they sometimes take a rest before flowering again in a few weeks.

The rose geranium (*P. capitatum*), or scented varieties, give off a fragrance that is often rose-like but also may smell like lemons, mint or fruit. There are over 200 species, all of which

are grown primarily for their aroma, hence their flowers are not showy.

The leaves, stalks and stems are covered with soft hair. These glandular hairs produce a scented oil, which is emitted when the plant is touched.

In hot sun, the oils give off a hazy gas to protect the plant from extreme glare and heat. The quality of the aroma depends on where the plants are grown; those growing in full sun will smell differently from those growing in shade.

They thrive in town gardens and can get by with minimal maintenance but, like all plants, they reward tender loving care.

Martha Washington, or **Regal Pelargoniums** (*P. domesticum*), are the showiest. They boast magnificent large, velvety flowers. Blossoms are azalea- or peunia-shaped, from 5 to 8 cm. across. They have a short flowering season, from May to July, but growing them in shade extends flowering to August.

EVEN THOUGH pelargoniums are garden-friendly, that does not mean they should be neglected. Regular feeding, watering and pruning will pay dividends in prolonged flowering and vibrant color.

Light: Slight shade or shelter from the summer sun prevents bleached flowers.

Water: Keep on the dry side.

Feeding: Half the recommended dose of a liquid fertilizer should be given every two weeks when plants are in active growth. Do not feed during the winter.

Pests and diseases: In spring, geraniums are susceptible to aphids. Spray with a commercial insecticide or diluted dish-washing liquid.

Pruning: Cut back by one-third in March and October.

Propagation: In the summer, tip cuttings may be inserted into small pots with sterilized, free-



Massed geraniums: Inexpensive and rapidly shedding their 'cheap and colorful' image. (David Brauner)

draining soil (available in nurseries). Do not overwater or cover with plastic bags. Pinch off growing tips when they are about 10-12 cm. high to encourage bushy growth.

Batsheva Mink is curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Hebrew University, Givat Ram. David Brauner writes the Jerusalem Post's Thursday On Camera column and is a gardening enthusiast.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, via e-mail: morrir@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il

Tip of the Week

Use the leaves (thoroughly rinsed) of scented pelargoniums to give a rose-like flavor to puddings and jellies. The next time you bake, line the bottom of the pan with rose geranium leaves to give the cake a delicious flavor, and the kitchen a delightful aroma. Scented leaves may also be used in potpourri and as table decorations.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Can we keep a pet on the eighth floor?



A carrot's welcome any time. Keep your rabbit in its cage outside on the balcony.

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A reader in Tel Aviv sent us the following letter: *We recently moved from a rather crowded flat to a very spacious one. I promised my eight-year-old son that once we moved he could have a pet. We also have a two-year-old daughter, and I want her to enjoy the pet as well. Since we are on the eighth floor and use the elevator for access, I feel that keeping a dog would be too difficult, especially house-training it. I have suggested birds and fish, but my son wants an animal he can stroke and handle. What do you suggest?*

At the risk of sounding one-track minded (see my August 27 column), I think that a cat is the perfect apartment pet. Cats are clean, cuddly, and make wonderful companions. What's more, they never have to be taken outside. Not that cats don't enjoy gardens and parks, but they can do very well inside too. Today, with easy-to-manage litter boxes and a wide array of odor-pre-

venting litter, there need not be a hint of cat odor in the apartment.

If the cat is to be housebound, you should have it neutered or spayed. These are simple operations and the cat recovers in a couple of days. I personally detest the idea of de-clawing cats, so I never recommend it. If you are concerned about your furniture getting scratched, a cat is not the pet for you.

Another excellent apartment pet is a whistler, the long-haired guinea pigs. These creatures are sweet-tempered even with very small children, they are clean, and become extremely tame if handled from a fairly early age. Many whistlers like to sit on your lap like a cat.

Or you might prefer a rabbit - if you have a balcony. The rabbit should be kept outside in its cage because even when it is very clean, the cage does have an odor. The same is true of mice and hamsters.

A parakeet can also make an interesting pet. It can be handled, taught to sit on one's finger



Whistlers or long-haired guinea pigs - great with kids. (Ariel Jerolimski)

and so forth. But of course it can't be cuddled.

A final option would be a small-breed dog that is trained to use a litter box. These sanitary facilities are suitable for toy breed dogs. In that event, they can be taken out for a walk when it is convenient for you. Pugs are appropriate, as are small terriers.

Dogs too should be neutered or spayed for apartment conditions. While it is certainly easier to keep pets when there is a garden, you will be surprised to discover how many people keep pets even in roof-top apartments. It is simply a matter of getting the right pet and keeping it under the best possible conditions.

Pennies from Heaven

For forty-eight years, our readers' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukka time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers.

There's always a reason for giving to kids - holidays, birthdays, achievements and even for just being a kid.

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Rush your contributions today and as the rain brings out the flowers, help us bring a smile to a child's face.

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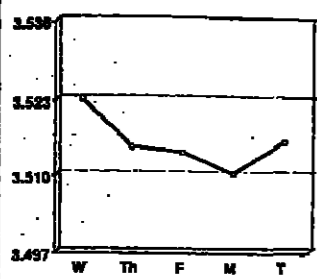
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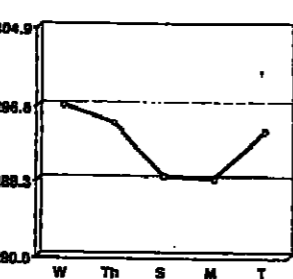
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in brief

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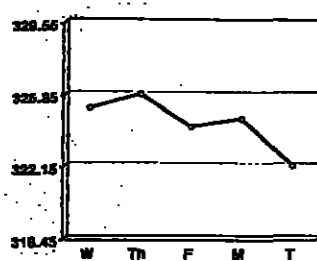


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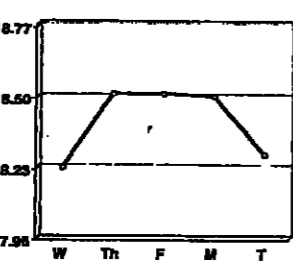
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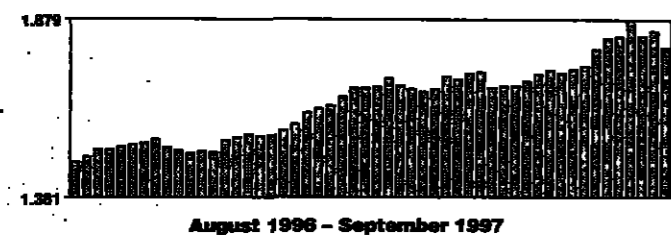


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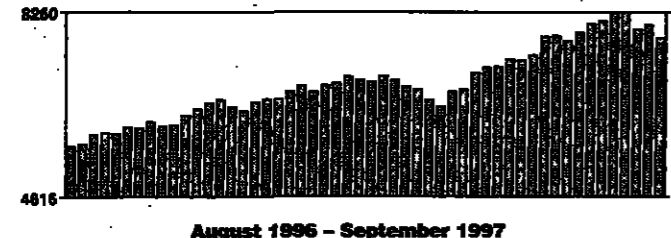
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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Bezeq hires Coopers & Lybrand to revise pricing

The international consulting company Coopers and Lybrand has been chosen by Bezeq to establish a new pricing system — called Merom — which will be launched in another year. The consulting company, which operates in 126 countries and has 67,000 employees, is one of the six largest companies of its kind in the field of accounting and financing.

The branches that won the Bezeq tender are located in England and Holland. The new Merom pricing system will allow calculation, control and analysis of information on the costs and profitability of services and activities provided by Bezeq. It will assist in marketing, analyzing market shares and reaching business decisions involving planning of investments and allocations, Bezeq said yesterday. *Judy Siegel*

Egypt, Russia launch \$100m. farming venture

Egypt and Russia have agreed to establish an agricultural trade company with a capital of \$100 million, Supply Minister Ahmed Guweili said yesterday. Guweili told *Al-Ahram* that Egyptian and Russian businessmen have so far raised \$10m. for the project. The firm is designed to help Egyptian exporters avoid high risks in selling to the unstable Russian market. *AP*

Koor takeover by Claridge facing regulatory deadlock

Globes News Service
and Jerusalem Post Staff

Negotiations between Anti-Trust Commissioner David Tadmor and the Claridge Group concerning the conditions under which the corporation will control Koor Industries are deadlocked, sources close to the group yesterday said.

The parties appear to disagree on most articles, primarily on setting new rules for cooperation and competition between Koor and Clal Israel, the country's first and

second largest holding companies. According to the sources, the matter is likely to end up in court.

Tadmor is to announce his decision on September 19.

It was also reported that the Renaissance Fund, in which Claridge is a major player and whose ventures may have conflicting interests with Koor, is seeking to sell off its holdings and therefore cease to exist. The fund concluded the investment stage more than one year ago, and according to the conditions of its establish-

ment, it was to operate for 3-4 years.

Associates noted that the fund is currently involved in portfolio enhancement and that "any investor would be happy to realize a profitable investment earlier than projected."

However, dissolving the fund, or, conversely, Claridge's withdrawal from it, is one of Tadmor's demands, due to the many common investments shared by Claridge and the fund, and Claridge's investment in the fund.

Claridge plans to sell its holdings in ClalCom at a profit. This through the sale of all of Renaissance's ClalCom shares in a planned issue, or the prior sale of those holdings.

Concerning Renaissance's and Claridge's holdings in Paz, a number of options are being examined. The proposal currently being drafted is that Mishab, a jointly held Clal-Koor subsidiary, would sell Paz competitor Sonol, and Claridge would remain a Paz shareholder.

Price war on int'l phone calls heats up

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq International has reduced its charges for calls to the US by 20 percent, to 61 agorot a minute, plus VAT, and cut prices to another 10 countries, in the latest twist in an accelerating price war within the newly demonopolized international call market.

BI now claims to offer the lowest rates to the US, Holland, France, Morocco, and Ireland. Barak sources refused to comment on the record on BI's move.

BI had previously not taken advantage of recent permission granted by the Communications Ministry to cut charges to a number of countries.

Barak charges 62 agorot a minute for a call to the US and Golden Lines 79 agorot. The rate (a 15% reduction) to France and Holland is 84 agorot, compared to NIS 1 to NIS 1.04 for Barak and 79 agorot and 89 agorot for Golden Lines.

BI rates to Turkey, Poland, Argentina, Mexico, Hong Kong, and Singapore are 50% cheaper than before.

Those customers who register with BI's "Hot Line" for NIS 4.70 a month get an additional 12% reduction when calling two stipulated numbers of their choice.

BI managing director Ori Yogeve said that according to a survey of phone users, it now has 54% of the overseas market, compared to nearly 100% at the beginning of July. However, this figure is not scientific. Yogeve said he thinks the new reductions will bolster BI's share of the market.

Communications Ministry Director-General Daniel Rosenne said his office will "not serve as a rating service for the three overseas call companies" and will not release figures on how the market is divided up among them.

Instead, the ministry continues to monitor the number of call minutes via each company over periods of 28 days at a time and allows BI to reduce rates as its share drops from one level to another.

Rosenne said that since overseas dialing was opened to competition, the length of the average call abroad is twice that before the rates fell.

Meanwhile, BI reported that 42% of all its outgoing calls were to the US, according to a late-August survey conducted by the Geocartography polling company.

England, France, Russia and the rest of the CIS totalled around 6% each, followed by 2% for Australia, Italy, Argentina, Holland, and Canada. A previous survey showed that during the previous three weeks, calls to the US comprised 39% of BI's outgoing calls.



New digital radio system at Berlin fair

A model presents a new Digital Audio Broadcasting system by German firms Bosch and Blaupunkt at the world's largest international broadcasting fair in Berlin this week. The new digital radio system, which offers music in compact-disc quality sound and information on a small LCD screen, will hit the market next year. *(Reuters)*

Electric Fuel, Japan's Tomen sign cooperation agreement

Globes News Service

Electric Fuel and Tomen of Japan have signed an agreement to set up a partnership aimed at commercializing the Jerusalem-based company's zinc-air battery.

The partnership will operate in the Far East. The two companies will initially examine the battery's potential in the Japanese market, and will carry out a market research project. Tomen will be Electric Fuel's exclusive representative to the Japanese vehicle industry, the government, and other organizations.

In the next stage, the two companies will form an experimental fleet of vehicles, and a recycling and refueling station for the zinc-air battery. At the same time, the partnership will seek to cooperate with both private and public companies to promote the project.

Tomen Corporation is one of Japan's largest commercial conglomerates, with annual sales of over \$40 billion. The corporation maintains branches all over the world, dealing in the setting up of factories and trading centers, and national projects.

This is Electric Fuel's first agreement in the

Far East, and is one more in a series of agreements the company has signed this year.

These agreements include cooperation with the Swedish electricity corporation for commercialization of the technology in Scandinavia, and an agreement to undertake trials with the Electric Power Research Institute of the private electricity companies in the USA. In addition, Electric Fuel is carrying out trials in Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, France, and Portugal.

Electric Fuel, which has 190 employees, last year had sales of \$4.4 million, all in exports.

McDonald's in Ramat Aviv Mall to be non-kosher

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Forty-eight hours after a kosher McDonald's outlet in Rehovot went bust, a non-kosher branch is expected to open today in the Ramat Aviv Mall, Omri Padan, the local franchisee said yesterday.

The outlet, which will be the fast-food chain's 47th local restaurant, represents a victory for Padan's personal battle against the country's pro-kashrut faction.

Earlier this year, when Lev Leviev

bought control of Africa-Israel, the company that owns the mall, the Orthodox businessman decided to close the shopping center on Shabbat and demanded that Padan make the McDonald's outlet kosher.

According to Padan's contract with the mall, however, he had the right to open a non-kosher restaurant.

Despite his successful battle to safeguard McDonald's right to serve cheeseburgers, however, Padan will not be able to sell them on Shabbat.

Unless the court decides to allow the movie theater to operate on Shabbat, McDonald's, like the mall, will remain closed on Shabbat. Padan's contract stipulates that if the movie theater is open, he, too, can open his restaurant.

Earlier in the week, Padan announced the closing of his kosher McDonald's in the Rehovot mall.

Next month the company will open its 48th outlet in Beersheba. There are four kosher McDonald's in Israel.

Beit She'an planned as focus of US-Jordan-Israel joint venture

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A group of Israeli businessmen have announced the establishment

of a trilateral joint venture among the US, Israel and Jordan, said Zvi Shorer, cofounder of the project, which will be based in Beit She'an.

The participants hope to improve Israeli and Jordanian business connections by identifying joint ventures in the tourism, agriculture and industry sectors that would best combine Israel's knowledge, Jordan's resources and America's financial backing.

Various European and American companies will provide "tens of millions of dollars to finance the projects," Shorer said.

The program has the backing of a Cleveland-based banker, said Shorer. The banker Robert Goldberg,

president of the Ohio Savings Bank, could not be reached for comment.

"If a Jordanian businessman wants connections with Israel and the United States, then we can help him to pave the way," said Shorer, adding that he expects the initiative to generate \$10m. in new business in the first year of operation. "We have the knowledge and the connections and the Jordanians have a lot of resources and cheap labor."

The Jordanians and Israelis are currently negotiating projects such as the establishment of a bed and breakfast in the Jordanian village of Pela, across the border from Beit She'an, the development of export channels for Jordanian farmers and the transfer of textile factories from Israel to Jordan.

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LAST CHANGE

Table of stock and bond prices with columns for stock name, price, and change.

KARAM LEADING STOCKS AND BONDS

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock and bond prices with columns for stock name, price, and change.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

Table of Israeli stock prices in New York with columns for stock name, price, and change.

AMEX

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices on the AMEX exchange with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NASDAQ

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices on the NASDAQ exchange with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NYSE

LAST CHANGE

Table of stock prices on the NYSE exchange with columns for stock name, price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Table of international stock prices in New York with columns for stock name, price, and change.

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INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Table of international stock prices in New York with columns for stock name, price, and change.

Dow posts largest-ever daily point gain



Maof 293.67 ▲ 1.86%
Dow Jones 7,879 ▲ 3.4%
FTSE 4,951 ▲ 1.7%
Nikkei 182.32 ▲ 1.44%

exporters' expanded earnings would boost the economy.
For an economy like Japan's, which is exporter driven, the only route to economic recovery is expanded exporter earnings, said Hiroyuki Nakai, general manager and chief investment strategist at Nikko Securities.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 Stock Average rose 258.22 points, or 1.44%, to 18,252.52, its biggest one-day gain in nearly two weeks. The Topix average of all shares on the first section rose 142.05 points, or 0.99%, to 14,160.50. Nikkei 225 index futures traded in Osaka rose 330 points, or 1.85%, to 18,190.

British stocks climbed even before the US economic report. Hong Kong shares halted a five-day slide, lifting companies that make a lot of their profits in Asia, including Standard Chartered and HSBC Holdings.

Trading was lower than usual. An estimated 330 million shares traded, down from the six-month daily average of 400 million.

A stronger dollar helps exporters by allowing them to keep prices down in overseas markets and expanding dollar-denominated revenue when repatriated.

Many leading exporters, such as Sony, have budgeted their earnings forecasts with the yen in the 115-to-the-dollar range. For companies with high export ratios such as Sony, whose exports account for 67% of sales, or Canon with an export ratio of 72%, any further depreciation in the yen adds substantial profit. (Bloomberg)

Asia

Japan's benchmark stock index rebounded from Monday's 4 1/2 month low after Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka indicated he's satisfied with the current dollar-yen level.

Mitsuoka's remarks helped push the yen to 121.61, its lowest level since May 9, fueling gains in electronic and auto exporters which benefit from a stronger dollar. It also fanned hopes that

Tel Aviv

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices soared yesterday, with the Dow Jones industrial average surging up more than 250 points, a record rise, as signs of moderation in the economy's growth calmed some inflation jitters.

The Dow, which tumbled 265 points last week, recovered almost all of that lost ground with a gain of 257.36 points to 7,879.37, according to preliminary figures.

That surpassed the previous record point gain ever — an 186.34-point surge on Oct. 11, 1987 that followed the Oct. 19 crash. But the 3.4 percent percentage gain Tuesday was not close to a record.

Broader market indicators also were sharply higher as Wall Street shook off an August slump in the first trading after the long Labor Day weekend.

Stocks tumbled last month on fears the economy was overheating. But a report yesterday of an unexpected slowing in the growth rate of the nation's manufacturing economy in August helped ease those fears.

The survey of factory executives by the National Association of Purchasing Managers showed no evidence of heightening inflation in August.

Inflation worries had raised the threat the Federal Reserve will push interest rates higher at a September 30 meeting, something that would cool down the economy and dampen corporate profits.

Stocks rose yesterday, led by Koor Industries, which gained 2% on news that Claridge is interested in boosting its holding in the company.

Banks also rose, after better-than-expected earnings, and on expectations that the government will sell a stake in Bank Hapoalim for more than its current share price.

Hapoalim rose 2.75% and Bank Leumi 2.25% after it was reiterated "outperform" by analyst Ian McEwen at Lehman Brothers.

Some investors were expecting shares to rebound from recent lows. "Stocks were down a lot during the past month," said Avi Meir, an investment manager at Israel General Bank.

As to whether gains will continue, Meir said, "We'll be smarter in a few days, after Wall Street opens, and after we find out whether there were fund redemptions in the month of August."

At its close Monday, the Maof had fallen more than 9% since its all-time high of 317.66 on August 6.

STOCKS

Table of NYSE Stocks with columns for Name, Last, Change. Includes NYSE Composite, NYSE Industrial, NYSE Technology, NYSE Energy, NYSE Chemical, NYSE Business, NYSE Services, NYSE Finance, NYSE Health Care, NYSE Consumer Goods, NYSE Consumer Services, NYSE Utilities.

Table of Decisions with columns for Decision, Unchanged, Advances, Retirements. Includes NYSE Composite, NYSE Industrial, NYSE Technology, NYSE Energy, NYSE Chemical, NYSE Business, NYSE Services, NYSE Finance, NYSE Health Care, NYSE Consumer Goods, NYSE Consumer Services, NYSE Utilities.

Table of Other Market Indexes with columns for Index, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, DAX, Hang Seng, HSI, AEX, CAC 40.

Table of Dollar Crossrates (US) with columns for Currency, Last, Change. Includes British Pound, Japanese Yen, Swiss Franc, Canadian Dollar, New Zealand Dollar, Australian Dollar, Hong Kong Dollar, Singapore Dollar, Taiwan Dollar, South Korean Won.

Table of US Commodities with columns for Commodity, Last, Change. Includes Coffee (Arabica), Coffee (Robusta), Cocoa (Cocoa Beans), Cotton (Cotton), Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, Sugar, Oil, Natural Gas, Heating Oil, Gasoline, Lead, Zinc, Nickel, Tin, Silver, Gold.

Table of London Commodities with columns for Commodity, Last, Change. Includes Coffee (Arabica), Coffee (Robusta), Cocoa (Cocoa Beans), Cotton (Cotton), Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, Sugar, Oil, Natural Gas, Heating Oil, Gasoline, Lead, Zinc, Nickel, Tin, Silver, Gold.

Table of Spot Market Metals (US) with columns for Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Cobalt, Nickel, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Manganese, Vanadium, Chromium, Molybdenum, Titanium, Magnesium, Aluminum, Copper, Nickel, Iron, Steel, Cast Iron, Cast Steel, Wire Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil, Wire, Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil, Wire, Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil.

Table of London Metal Futures with columns for Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Cobalt, Nickel, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Manganese, Vanadium, Chromium, Molybdenum, Titanium, Magnesium, Aluminum, Copper, Nickel, Iron, Steel, Cast Iron, Cast Steel, Wire Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil, Wire, Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil.

Table of London Metal Fixes with columns for Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Cobalt, Nickel, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Manganese, Vanadium, Chromium, Molybdenum, Titanium, Magnesium, Aluminum, Copper, Nickel, Iron, Steel, Cast Iron, Cast Steel, Wire Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil, Wire, Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil.

Table of New York Metal Futures with columns for Metal, Last, Change. Includes Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium, Rhodium, Iridium, Cobalt, Nickel, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Manganese, Vanadium, Chromium, Molybdenum, Titanium, Magnesium, Aluminum, Copper, Nickel, Iron, Steel, Cast Iron, Cast Steel, Wire Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil, Wire, Rod, Bar, Sheet, Pipe, Tube, Plate, Coil.

Table of Data Communications via ABAB with columns for Service, Last, Change. Includes Data Communications, Network Services, Value Added Services, Managed Services, Consulting Services, Training Services, Support Services.

Table of Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. with columns for Company, Last, Change. Includes various international companies and their stock prices.

Table of New York Market Indexes with columns for Index, Last, Change. Includes Dow Jones Industrial Average, Dow Jones Industrial Average -20, Dow Jones Industrial Average -50, Dow Jones Industrial Average -100, Dow Jones Industrial Average -200, Dow Jones Industrial Average -500, Dow Jones Industrial Average -1000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -2000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -5000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -10000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -20000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -50000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -100000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -200000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -500000, Dow Jones Industrial Average -1000000.

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CURRENCIES



Dollar 3.5160 ▲ 0.11
Basket 3.7508 ▼ 0.07
Mark 1.9299 ▼ 0.25
Sterling 5.6175 ▼ 0.70

The dollar was little changed in London, near a four-month high it set against the yen, after comments from Japanese Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka suggesting Japan won't try to halt its rise.

Mitsuoka said current exchange rates reflect economic fundamentals, suggesting he's comfortable with the dollar's recent rise.

"It seems like the 120 yen psychological level that was assumed to be a concern for Japanese officials was nothing but pure fantasy," said Claudio Demolli, a currency strategist at Merrill Lynch.

The dollar rose to 121.81 yen, its highest since reaching 123.75 on May 9. It was at 1.8192 marks, down from an earlier high of 1.8245 after the Bundesbank left

its benchmark securities repurchase rate unchanged for another week, as expected.

Recent strong economic reports in the US have also fueled speculation there could be headed higher, helping the dollar rebound from last week's five-week low of 1.7865.

Bundesbank officials have been hinting at higher rates since the dollar reached an eight-year high of 1.8905 marks on Aug. 6. They have said they will be watching exchange rates closely in case mark weakness triggers imported inflation. A weak mark makes imported goods more expensive, which could lead to inflation in general.

At its council meeting last Thursday, the Bundesbank said it would leave open the option of changing rates at its weekly repo

Yen falls to 4-month low against dollar

sloppy and unemployment is near a post-war high.

"The Bundesbank has had a very successful period of jawboning," said James Shugg, an economist at Westpac Banking Corp. "I think that going into next [Bundesbank council] meeting, we'll see the dollar drift off just on the possibility they will do something, and then it will come back up when they don't. A rate rise just isn't appropriate for the German economy right now so I don't think the Bundesbank will do anything for some months."

The US currency Friday topped 120 yen for the first time since May and has climbed 2.73 percent in the past five days. Before Mitsuoka spoke, the dollar slipped as low as 120.35 yen amid concern the Japanese government would take action,

including selling dollars, to stem a further rise of the U.S. currency.

Such speculation grew after Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Tomomitsu Oba said, in an interview with the Nikkei Financial Daily, Japan should sell dollars to send a signal to the market if it's unhappy with the yen's weakness. Oba said an appropriate level for the dollar is between 110 yen and 130 yen, though rapid swings are undesirable.

In Japan, the Ministry of Finance decides whether and when to sell or buy a currency and entrusts the operation to the Bank of Japan. Japan has ample dollars to sell, with its foreign currency reserves reaching a record \$223.885 billion in August. (Bloomberg)

Europe

UK stocks rose for a second day, after economic reports fanned talk official interest rates will remain unchanged on both

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COMMODITIES



Gold \$322.25 ▼ 2.3
Crude Oil \$18.28 ▼ 0.15
CRB 242.7 ▲ 0.71

Gold prices were steady in London inter-bank trading. Gold for immediate delivery rose 5 cents to \$324.00 an ounce.

Platinum and palladium prices were little changed in London inter-bank trading. Spot platinum recently traded \$1 higher at \$410.50 an ounce while spot palladium was recently \$1 higher at \$190.50 an ounce.

Crude oil futures on the International Petroleum Exchange

October Brent closed 8 cents

down Monday at \$18.43 a barrel, while the Singapore International Monetary exchange the contract hadn't traded.

Copper slipped as another rise in stockpiles indicated supply may be exceeding demand for the base metal.

London Metal Exchange copper stockpiles rose 1,025 metric tons to total 279,625 tons. While the northern hemisphere summer tends to slow copper demand down as factories close for the holiday period, last week's lower rate of stockpile increases may have been a sign demand was set to improve, analysts said.

Copper inventories last week rose only 0.9 percent compared with 4.5 percent the previous week. The benchmark three-month copper contract traded \$9 lower at \$2,176-\$2,180 a metric ton. Aluminum fell as another

stockpile increase added to the recent rise in inventories. London Metal Exchange aluminum stockpiles, which rose 3,200 metric tons in the latest report to stand at 702,000 tons on Monday, the exchange said.

Much of the recent stockpile rise has been attributed to the premium of spot aluminum over three-month prices. Such a premium, known as backwardation, attracts metal into warehouses as holders of metal "lead" into warehouses, buying it back cheaper at a later date and pocketing the profits. The benchmark three-month aluminum contract on the LME fell \$4 to \$1,620-\$1,623 a metric ton in electronic trading. (Bloomberg)

Heavy metals

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdon, 670-6890; Belsam, Saleh & Din, 627-2315; Shufan, Shuzat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldeira, Herzl's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Kupat Holim Clalit, 7-9 Amsterdam, 523-2383; Superpharm Lev Ditzangol, 50 Dizangol, 820-0875.
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center, 425 Ibn Givni, 549-2340.
Tel Aviv: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einsteim, 641-3730; London Ministers Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 686-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Doron, 6 Gelta, Ra'anana, 771-8084.
Netanya: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 15 Smlansky, 980-5204.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312.
Krivot area: Kupat Holim Clalit

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Shaze Zedek (internal, gynecology, ENT), Hadasah Ein Kareem (surgery, obstetrics), Hadasah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bilur Holim (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center, Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniaco.
* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 581-0333, Tel Aviv 549-1111 (children/youth 549-0739), Rishon LeZion 956-6812, Haifa 867-2222, BeerSheva 649-4333, Netanya 862-5110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 767-4555, Hadera 634-6789.
Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-955-5744/5. 24-hour service.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 680.66 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English.

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TEL AVIV
Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Yona Lotan: Selected Paintings 1958-97. Second-hand, Original vs. Reproduction: Didactic exhibition for children and youth. Micha Kirshner, The Local Spirit, photographs 1978-96. El Jacob: The World of Wonders 3, Paintings, 1996-97. Dorit Yaggy: New series. "All the World's a Stage." The Collection in Context. Collections. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Vigil Azar: 1994-97. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center. Tel. 6919155-8.

HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, tel 04-6374253.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table of Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96) with columns for Currency, 3 MONTHS, 6 MONTHS, 12 MONTHS. Includes U.S. dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, Swiss franc, Yen.

Table of Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.9.97) with columns for Currency, Buy, Sell, Buy, Sell, Rate**. Includes U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, French franc, Japanese yen, Dutch florin, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Norwegian krona, Danish krona, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Italian lira, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, ECU, Irish punt, Spanish peseta.

Table of CHECKS AND TRANSFERS with columns for Currency, Buy, Sell, Rate**. Includes U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, Japanese yen, Dutch florin, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Norwegian krona, Danish krona, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Italian lira, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, ECU, Irish punt, Spanish peseta.

Table of BANKNOTES with columns for Currency, Buy, Sell, Rate**. Includes U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, Japanese yen, Dutch florin, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Norwegian krona, Danish krona, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Italian lira, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, ECU, Irish punt, Spanish peseta.

Table of Rep. with columns for Currency, Buy, Sell, Rate**. Includes U.S. dollar, German mark, Pound sterling, Japanese yen, Dutch florin, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Norwegian krona, Danish krona, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Italian lira, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, ECU, Irish punt, Spanish peseta.

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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



(From left) Theodor Wallau, Yekutiel Federmann and his wife, Bella

Industrialist, oil prospector and hotel tycoon Yekutiel Federmann, a founder of the Dan hotel chain, has been honored with one of Germany's highest decorations. At the best of German President Roman Herzog, German ambassador to Israel Theodor Wallau presented Federmann with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The presentation was made at a private ceremony conducted at the embassy in the presence of members of the Federmann family and senior embassy officials. Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl conveyed congratulations and warm greetings from Bonn. The award was made to Federmann in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of relations between Israel and Germany.

tor, will become vice-president of marketing. Dario Zippis, 43, current director of international sales, has been promoted to vice-president, and Gil Biran, 40, director of WAN, has been named vice-president of research and development. He will work closely with the company's founder and Chairman Zohar Zissapel.

David Saar, 40, has been named general manager of the Israel Development Center of the Japanese company JSK, which operates on four continents. Saar is a business management graduate of Tel Aviv University and a mathematics and computer science graduate of Haifa University.

The Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce this week welcomed its new Executive Director Paul Israel, who previously worked in the chamber's Melbourne branch. He is replacing Baron Katranski, who is returning to Australia.

Berlitz has announced the appointment of Laurence Cohen as the manager of its Tel Aviv branch. Cohen, 31, immigrated from France in 1983, and following her army service, began teaching English in schools. In 1994, she was appointed manager of the newly opened Jerusalem branch of Berlitz and held the position for three years.

Dana Lufkin, 26, has been appointed sales promotion manager at Lioz Marketing, served for the past two years she served as an account executive.

Yohanan Corinardi, 38, is the new marketing manager for Hagoshrim, the Upper Galilee resort hotel. Corinardi, who is a graduate of the Rupin College hotel management course, has had experience as a hotel food-and-beverage manager and as a sales manager for domestic tourism.

Californian vintner Lewis Pasco, 41, has joined the Baron Wineries in Binyamina where he is working closely with owner Jonathan Tishbi. Pasco, who has degrees from Davis and Berkeley universities has worked for prominent wine producers around the world, including Wellington Vineyards, Twin Brook Winery, Chimney Rock Winery and the Marimar Torres Estate. Pasco, who will be the chief vintner at Baron, started his career as a chef in a luxury restaurant.

The Internet server Netvision has named Mark Gazit, 29, as its vice-president for research and development. Gazit previously held this post at Netmedia, which has since merged with Netvision.

RAD Data communications has announced three new senior management promotions. All three are veteran executives who have been with the company for upwards of a decade. Yoram Holtz, 49, research and development direc-

Outperforming a falling market

By NEIL COHEN

Both our portfolios have outperformed the market over the last two weeks, though each for its own reasons. And, to my surprise, the aggressive portfolio has done better than the conservative.

The general market is down just over 4 percent since the last portfolio column, and there has been a fair amount of gloom in and around the market. The government is not showing sufficient resolve in the battle against inflation, while the Bank of Israel gives no quarter, raising interest rates after several successive rate cuts. Stock markets never like rate hikes.

The Histadrut is threatening a general strike over the fact that the government is threatening the pension settlement reached with the previous government. Small matter that the Histadrut is way behind with payments to one of its own pension settlements reached with the previous government (for employees of the Histadrut itself). And with unemployment on the rise, the macroeconomic situation does not seem very promising.

The problem runs deeper than any of these individual issues though. One seems to be looking at strategy, only at tactics, and no one seems to have the gunpowder to take the ball, put his head down and run with it. A government employee told me last week that working on one of the state-utility privatizations is a nightmare. The vested interests and short-

sightedness of virtually all concerned defied belief, they told me. Until government and unions take on board what is really needed to become a developed, competitive, modern economy, we will not undertake or complete the substantial structural reforms so crucial to stable, long-term growth. When this happens, the market could really motor. Until it does, we'll bounce all around the place.

In addition to the macro stuff, world markets were taking a tumble generally.

Wall Street has been volatile with something of a southerly direction and the key European markets have been following its lead. If money is coming out of the major markets, it tends to come out of the smaller ones too, and Tel Aviv has been no exception.

Despite its solid and boring nature, most of the stocks in the conservative portfolio slid back together with the general market. What held the portfolio up was the continued strength of Orbotech. Just for the record, I have absolutely no regrets about taking some profit as the stock has risen.

If I regret anything, it is that I have not taken more profit in other places - Tefahot and Teva in the conservative portfolio and Blue Square in the aggressive - as the market rose.

But Histadrut is always 20-20, and I am relaxed given both portfolios' broad spread and the high quality of the stocks they both hold. I am confident that both

would outperform the general market were it to turn sharply downward. Still, I have maintained from the beginning that we are interested in absolute performance over relative, and losing only 25 percent when the market is down 40% would be small comfort.

Also, I'm willing to risk the flip-side of this, underperforming

PERSONAL FINANCE



in a really good market, providing I'm producing decent returns. Of the three stocks mentioned above, I'm completely comfortable with Tefahot and Teva. I am slightly less comfortable with Blue Square, though not ready to sell it at these prices. It has encountered intensified competition which has hurt profitability. The chain is still one of the biggest and most profitable in the country.

In contrast to the conservative portfolio, the aggressive was underperformed by better performance from several stocks. Strong results from Israel Chemicals boosted its share price as well as that of its controlling shareholder, the Israel Corporation, both of which we own, while good results and some positive press coverage boosted Top Image Systems

and Home Center.

I have always been a believer in setting the bar high. The two existing portfolios have been running for about 16 months and have done very well partly because we started buying when the market was in a deep trough and prices were very cheap. In short, we were lucky. I'd like to think our significant outperformance has been a function of superior stock selection, but the money manager's biggest enemy is his complacency and beginning to believe his own spiel. You think you've got it all worked out and nothing can touch you.

For this reason, I've been running the portfolios very cautiously for the last few months as prices have risen and bargains have become harder to find. This has probably been a little boring for readers and not a source of very many profitable new ideas.

So, alongside the existing portfolios, which we will maintain, the time has come to start a new portfolio, which we will call the defensive portfolio. I think it's going to be much tougher making money going forward and much easier to lose it. It will be much more of a challenge navigating the pricing and market risk we now face. In two weeks time, we'll start the

portfolio rolling. One area I'll be looking at closely will be the convertible bonds that have been issued in such quantities over the last couple of months. The new issue market softened considerably over the last few weeks and offerings were opening at discounts. Sooner or later, I suspect, investors who were looking for a quick flip will tire of holding the bonds and they will slip back to attractive discounts.

All the more so if the market turns down. Then investors will start treating as debt the convertibles they bought as proxies for equity.

I should probably be stepping up to the plate in the current market uncertainty, but I think the market is likely to slip back further before it recovers to a level where I'm a little more comfortable with prices. So it's another week of sitting on our hands.

The writer works in the investment industry and may hold positions in securities mentioned in the column. This column should not be taken as advice to buy, sell or continue to hold any securities, and anyone acting on the advice of this column does so at his or her own risk.

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO table with columns for Fund Name, No. of shares, Cost/share, Total cost, Current price, and Current value. It lists various funds like Cirus Properties, Harel Hamishmar, Teva, Bank Tefahot, and others.

Advertisement for 'Blessings of Peace' featuring a book and greeting cards. Includes contact information for The Jerusalem Post, phone numbers, and a form for ordering.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing various mutual funds under categories: FLEXIBLE, SHARES, STATE BONDS, COMPANY BONDS, FOREIGN CURRENCY, and MIXED. Each entry includes fund name, unit cost, redemption price, monthly yield, and NIS assets.

Coming up Roses

But son of Pete and Reds lose to Royals in last round of interleague play; Griffey whacks 45th, 46th HRs

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pete Rose Jr. got a hit in his major-league debut, winning his father's applause, but couldn't reach Jermaine Dye's tie-breaking double as the Kansas City Royals rallied for a 7-4 victory Monday over the Cincinnati Reds.

With his father, baseball's all-time hits leader, watching from the stands, the 27-year-old Rose struck out in his first at-bat and then singled the second time up. He went 1-for-3 with a walk.

Pete Rose, who tops baseball's all-time hits list with 4,256, held up his index finger to celebrate his son's first major-league hit. Rose also applauded, along with the crowd of 31,920, when his son made a backhand stop on Jay Bell's grounder down the third-base line and threw him out in the fourth.

Rose Jr. took one of his father's

black Mizuno bats to the plate in the second inning, imitated his dad's hitting crouch for the first pitch, then went back to his spread stance. He struck out on a foul tip that MacFarlane held onto.

In his next at-bat, using one of his own bats, Rose Jr. lined a single off first baseman Jeff King's glove, prompting the crowd to break into the chant that was the background for his father's biggest moments: "PETE! PETE! PETE!"

Phillies 5, Yankees 1

Curt Schilling struck out a career-high 16 while Hideki Irabu left early.

A crowd of 50,869, the largest at Veterans Stadium to see the Phillies since 1995, saw Philadelphia win for the sixth time in eight games. The Yankees have lost four of five.

Schilling (14-10), who pitched

eight innings on the humid afternoon, raised his major league-leading strikeout total to 280. He also set a team record for strikeouts by a right-hander, passing Jim Bunning's 268 in 1965.

Irabu (4-3) was chased before getting an out in the fourth inning, allowing all five runs and nine hits. Irabu, who was nearly pulled from the starting rotation — for the second time — after getting hit hard in Oakland last week, saw his ERA further inflate to 7.68.

Indians 7, Pirates 5

Sandy Alomar hit a three-run homer in visiting Cleveland's four-run first.

The Indians and Pirates have coexisted 130 miles apart since Cleveland joined the AL in 1901, 14 years after the Pirates became part of the NL, yet had never played a game that counted, not even in the World Series.

Interleague play changed that as 45,298 showed up, the Pirates' fourth home sellout of the season and their first in advance since their 1989 opener against the Mets.

Mets 3, Blue Jays 0

Jason Iiringhausen took a two-hitter into the seventh inning for his second win and John Olerud homered off his former team.

Iringhausen was making his second start for host New York since coming back from a broken wrist and tuberculosis this season.

The right-hander, who beat San Francisco in his last start despite giving up 11 hits in five innings, allowed two hits, walked six and struck out six.

Toronto, limited to two hits by three pitchers, has lost four in a row.

Expos 4, Red Sox 2 (10)

Rookie Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Mike Lansing singled with two outs off Joe Hudson (3-1) and Guerrero followed with his ninth home run.

Montreal improved its record in interleague play to 10-3.

Ugueth Urbina (4-8) struck out three in two perfect innings of relief.

White Sox 5, Cardinals 4

Rookie Magglio Ordonez, making his first pinch-hit appearance, homered with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Chicago White Sox a road win.

Ordonez hit a 1-0 pitch off reliever Tony Fossas (1-6) over the wall in left-center for his second homer. He is 5-for-8 since being recalled August 28 from Triple-A Nashville.

Brewers 3, Astros 2

Jeremy Burnitz had three hits, including a two-run double, and visiting Milwaukee sent NL Central-leading Houston to its fifth straight loss.

The Astros loaded the bases with

two outs in the ninth inning against Doug Jones, but Ricky Gutierrez grounded out.

The Brewers improved their interleague record to 7-6 and remained 3½ games behind Cleveland in the AL Central. Houston fell to 3-10 in interleague play, but stayed 2½ games ahead of Pittsburgh.

Twins 7, Cubs 6

Pat Meares hit a tying, three-run homer in the fifth inning and added the go-ahead single in the seventh as Minnesota rallied for a road win.

There were nine walks, two passed balls, two hit batters and one error — befitting for a game involving two of the majors leagues' worst teams. Still, 34,117 fans came out to Wrigley Field on a beautiful Labor Day to watch the Twins (57-78) and Cubs (55-83) meet for the first time.

Paul Molitor had two hits, tying Paul Waner for 13th on baseball's career list with 3,152, as the Twins improved to 7-6 in interleague play.

Sammy Sosa hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs for the Cubs, also 7-6. Sosa has 31 home runs.

Marlins 10, Orioles 4

Devon White hit a grand slam and Cliff Floyd pulled a three-run homer 458 feet to power host Florida.

The Marlins won their third in a row and improved to 81-55, breaking last year's team record of 80 victories. Florida is 10-3 in interleague play.

The Orioles have lost three in a row for the first time since July 16-18, but their 85-59 record remains baseball's best.

Tigers 4, Braves 2

Deivi Cruz squeezed home the go-ahead run in top of the seventh and Detroit ended Greg Maddux's 10-game winning streak.

Brian Moehler (9-10) worked six strong innings against a Braves team that scored 31 runs in a three-game weekend series at Boston. He allowed six hits and two fourth-inning runs.

Maddux (17-4) had not lost since a June 13 interleague game against Baltimore, a span of 14 starts in which he gave up more than three earned runs only once.

Mariners 9, Padres 6

Ken Griffey Jr. cranked up his chase of Roger Maris' record by homering in his first two at-bats, giving him a major league-leading 46.

Griffey, with three home runs in two days, has 24 games left in September to break Maris' mark of 61 set for the New York Yankees in 1961. Griffey went 4-for-4 with a double. He drove in four runs, making him the AL leader with 126 RBIs, and scored five times.

He also walked and stole a base

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—FThomas, Chicago, .352; Justice, Cleveland, .338; BeWilliams, New York, .330; Salomar, Cleveland, .330; Ramirez, Cleveland, .325; WClarke, Texas, .320; Greer, Texas, .325; Ramirez, Cleveland, .325.

RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 107; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 105; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 101; Jeter, New York, 99; FThomas, Chicago, 98; Ramirez, Seattle, 94; BLHunter, Detroit, 93.

RBI—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 128; TMartinez, New York, 125; Salomar, Anaheim, 109; FThomas, Chicago, 106; JuGonzalez, Texas, 105; O'Neill, New York, 105; Belle, Chicago, 100.

HITS—Garcaparra, Boston, 182; Greer, Texas, 165; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 162; Jeter, New York, 161; JValentin, Boston, 160; IRodriguez, Texas, 160; FThomas, Chicago, 157; Ramirez, Seattle, 157.

HOMERUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 48; TMartinez, New York, 41; Thome, Cleveland, 36; McGwire, Oakland, 34; JuGonzalez, Texas, 32; Buhner, Seattle, 32; RPalmeto, Baltimore, 31.

STOLEN BASES—BLHunter, Detroit, 64; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 53; Nixon, Toronto, 47; TGooden, Texas, 44; Vizquel, Cleveland, 37; Durham, Chicago, 30; ARodriguez, Seattle, 29.

PITCHING (15 Decisions)—Clemens, Toronto, 20-4, .833, 1.73; RAJohnson, Seattle, 17-4, .810, 2.32; Moyer, Seattle, 14-4, .778, 3.51; Erickson, Baltimore, 15-6, .750, 3.40; Radtke, Minnesota, 18-7, .720, 3.86; Hershiser, Cleveland, 12-5, .708, 4.80; Blair, Detroit, 14-6, .700, 4.03.

STRIKEOUTS—RAJohnson, Seattle, 254; Clemens, Toronto, 237; Cone, New York, 215; Mussina, Baltimore, 188; Applier, Kansas City, 168; Fassero, Seattle, 161; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 155.

SAVES—Rivers, New York, 40; RMyers, Baltimore, 40; DeJonges, Milwaukee, 30; RHernandez, Chicago, 27; Wetteland, Texas, 27; ToJones, Detroit, 26; Perovich, Anaheim, 23; Aguilera, Minnesota, 23.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—LWalker, Colorado, .377; Gwynn, San Diego, .378; Piazza, Los Angeles, .352; Lofton, Atlanta, .347; Joyner, San Diego, .335; Alfonso, New York, .330; McGrace, Chicago, .324.

RUNS—Biggio, Houston, 123; LWalker, Colorado, 121; Bonds, San Francisco, 101; Galarraga, Colorado, 100; EYoung, Los Angeles, 94; Bagwell, Houston, 94; Piazza, Los Angeles, 86.

RBI—Galarraga, Colorado, 123; Bagwell, Houston, 114; LWalker, Colorado, 110; Kent, San Francisco, 105; Sosa, Chicago, 105; Gwynn, San Diego, 105; ChJones, Atlanta, 103.

HITS—Gwynn, San Diego, 194; LWalker, Colorado, 187; Biggio, Houston, 186; Castilla, Colorado, 163; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 162; Piazza, Los Angeles, 162; Galarraga, Colorado, 162.

HOMERUNS—LWalker, Colorado, 40; Castilla, Colorado, 37; Bagwell, Houston, 37; Galarraga, Colorado, 36; Piazza, Los Angeles, 32; Bonds, San Francisco, 32; Sosa, Chicago, 31.

STOLEN BASES—DSanders, Cincinnati, 56; Womack, Pittsburgh, 47; DeShields, St. Louis, 45; EYoung, Los Angeles, 39; Biggio, Houston, 35; OVeras, San Diego, 30; Bonds, San Francisco, 29; Dunston, Chicago, 29; Henderson, San Diego, 28.

PITCHING (15 Decisions)—Neagle, Atlanta, 18-3, .857, 2.83; Estes, San Francisco, 18-4, .818, 3.13; Kile, Houston, 17-4, .810, 2.32; GMaddux, Atlanta, 17-4, .810, 2.32; PMartinez, Montreal, 15-6, .727, 1.83; Juden, Montreal, 11-5, .687, 4.22; Park, Los Angeles, 13-8, .684, 3.12.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 280; PMartinez, Montreal, 255; Smoltz, Atlanta, 204; Nomo, Los Angeles, 201; KJBrown, Florida, 179; Kile, Houston, 173; AnBenes, St. Louis, 165.

SAVES—Beck, San Francisco, 34; JoFrancis, New York, 34; ToWorrell, Los Angeles, 33; Hoffman, San Diego, 32; Nen, Florida, 32; Wohlers, Atlanta, 32; Eckersley, St. Louis, 32.

INTERLEAGUE

New York (AL) 000 000—1 7 0
Philadelphia 200 300 000—5 11 0
Irabu, Boehringer (4), Lloyd (6), Mendoza (8) and Girardot (Schilling, Bortolico (9) and Luberthal. Schilling, 14-12, L—Irabu, 4-3, HR—Philadelphia, Barron (3).

Cleveland 402 100 000—7 12 0
Pittsburgh 201 101 000—5 9 2
Ogea, ALopez (8), MJackson (8), Mesa (9) and SAlomar, Cooke, JJohnson (4), Wallace (7), Ruelbel (9) and Kendall, W—Ogea, 6-8, L—Cooke, 9-14, Sv—Mesa (10), HRs—Cleveland, Ramirez (29), SAlomar (17).

Toronto 000 000 000—0 2 0
NY(NL) 000 111 000—3 6 0
Hengen, Quartrill (7), Plesac (9) and B.Santiago, Isringhausen, McMichael (7), Rojas (8), Jo.Franco (9) and Hundley, W—Isringhausen, 2-0, L—Hengen, 14-9, Sv—Jo.Franco (34). HRs—New York, Olerud (17), Huskey (18).

Kansas City 100 003 012—7 10 1
Cincinnati 012 000 001—4 8 0
Appier, Service (6), Whisenant (7), J.Montgomery (9), Pichardo (9) and MacFarlane, Remlinger, Belinda (8), Graves (8), Fa.Rodriguez (9) and J.Oliver, W—Appier, 8-11, L—Remlinger, 6-7, Sv—Pichardo (10), HRs—Kansas City, Damon (18), Cincinnati, Taubensee (9).

Milwaukee 000 120 000—3 7 1
Houston 001 010 010—2 8 1
Adamsen, Fetters (8), Wickman (8), Do.Jones (8) and Matheny; Hoff, Magnante (8) and Ausmus, W—Adamsen, 5-2, L—Hoff, 8-10, Sv—Do.Jones (30).

St. Louis 000 030 011—5 7 0
Chi(NL) 001 100 110—4 10 1
Drabek, Foulke (7), McElroy (8), J.Darwin (8), T.Castillo (8), Karchner (9) and Fabregas; Morris, Beltran (8), Fossas (8), C.King (8), J.Lampdin (9), W—T.Castillo, 4-4, L—Fossas, 1-6, Sv—Karchner (13), HR—Chicago, Ordonez (2).

Minnesota 201 030 100—7 13 1
Chi(NL) 202 200 000—6 12 0
Roberson, Ritchie (3), Trombley (8), Swindell (7), Aguilera (9) and

American League

East Division W L Pct. GB
Atlanta 85 62 .820 —
Florida 81 55 .596 3½
New York 74 62 .544 10½
Montreal 68 68 .500 16½
Philadelphia 51 82 .383 32

Central Division W L Pct. GB
Houston 69 70 .493 2½
Pittsburgh 63 74 .460 7
St. Louis 59 76 .437 10
Cincinnati 55 83 .399 15½

West Division W L Pct. GB
Los Angeles 78 60 .565 —
San Francisco 76 62 .551 2
Colorado 69 70 .496 9½
San Diego 65 74 .468 13½

East Division

Baltimore 85 49 .634 —
New York 79 56 .586 9½
Boston 67 71 .488 20
Toronto 65 71 .478 21
Detroit 64 72 .471 22

Central Division W L Pct. GB
Cleveland 71 62 .534 —
Milwaukee 69 67 .507 3½
Chicago 69 68 .504 4
Minnesota 57 78 .422 15
Kansas City 58 78 .418 15½

West Division W L Pct. GB
Seattle 78 62 .551 —
Anaheim 74 64 .536 2
Texas 64 73 .467 11½
Oakland 53 85 .384 23

GREEN BAY (AP) — The Super Bowl champions were out of sync, sloppy and susceptible on offense and defense.

Luckily for the Green Bay Packers, none of that seeped over to their maligned special teams.

Bill Schroeder had 160 return yards and set up all three of rookie Ryan Longwell's field goals in

the Packers' 38-24 victory over the Chicago Bears on Monday night.

But the champs lost two more starters to knee injuries — cornerback Craig Newsome, who will be out for the season, and tight end Mark Chmura, expected to be out 4-6 weeks.

They join Edgar Bennett, the starting running back, already gone for the season with a knee injury in the exhibition opener.

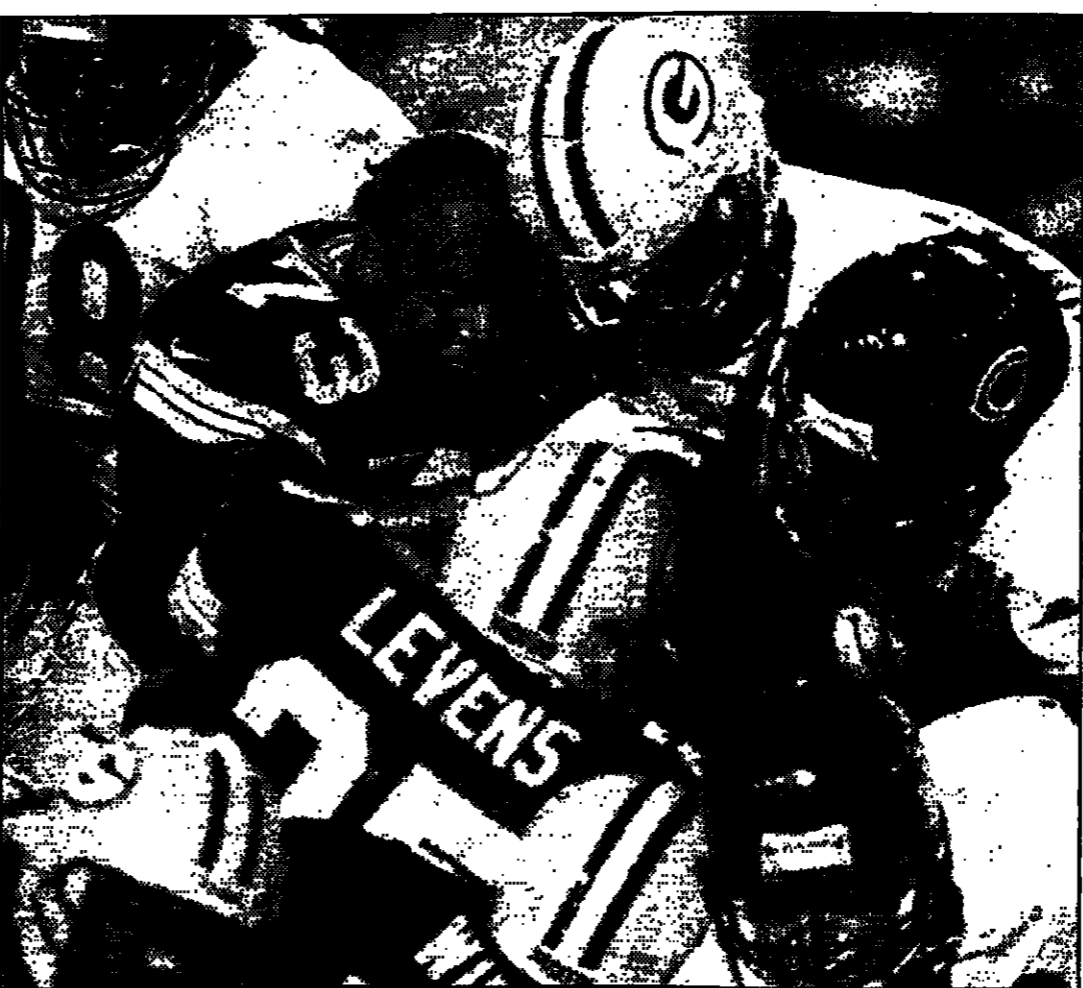
Their loss has the Packers finding themselves reaching into their depth chart yet again.

"What's new?" two-time MVP Brett Favre said. "It seems like it happens to us all the time."

Last year, the Packers lost Chmura, Brooks and wideout Antonio Freeman midway through their Super Bowl run, although Freeman and Chmura returned.

"We found a way to overcome it and I hope we can overcome this," Favre said.

"It's going to hurt us because we're losing two leaders, two



PUSHING AND SHOWING — Packers offensive tackle Aaron Taylor loses his helmet as Dorsey Levens scores a TD from the one-yard line in fourth-quarter action against the Bears.

starters," Packers safety LeRoy Butler said. "It's going to hurt us big-time." "I'm not happy about the injuries," Holmgren said. "But hey, we won 38-24 and I'll take it." But the injuries stung.

Still, the Packers have a way of finding unsung contributors — this night it was Schroeder and Longwell, two obscure newcomers

who helped the Packers stay in the game in the first half.

Schroeder, a brash kick returner who spent the summer with the World League's Rhein Fire, more than replaced departed Super Bowl MVP Desmond Howard with punt returns of 46, 22 and 47 yards.

They set up three field goals by Longwell, who made the team only because Brett Conway, draft-

ed in the third round to replace Chris Jacke, was ineffective in the first exhibition game and then got hurt.

Favre, who was 15-for-22 for 226 yards, had TD passes of 1 yard to Jeff Thomason, Chmura's replacement, and 18 to Brooks, who made an impressive debut after missing the second half of last season with a serious knee injury.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Chicago, Harris 13-122, Savaan 16-41, Kramer 1-1, Green Bay, Levens 22-80, Favre 7-18, Henderson 2-9.

PASSING—Chicago, Kramer 17-41-2-192, Green Bay, Favre 15-22-1-228.

RECEIVING—Chicago, Harris 4-38, Wetright 3-28, Ingram 3-24, Proehl 2-30, Penn 2-28, Savaan 2-20, Jennings 1-22, Green Bay, Thomason 6-58, Mays 4-54, Brooks 3-71, Henderson 2-13, Chmura 1-30.

CLIPPING WINGS — Mets pitcher Jason Iringhausen hurls six innings of shutout ball to win over the Blue Jays.

in the home win.

The All-Star outfielder had 24 home runs at the end of May, but he hit just five homers in June and only three in July.

Griffey came back with 12 homers in August, finishing with 4 home run Sunday at Los Angeles.

Jeff Fassero (14-8) pitched seven innings and gave up four hits.

Giants 8, Athletics 2

J.T. Snow drove in four runs, giving him 20 RBIs in interleague

play and leading San Francisco over Oakland before 50,792 fans, the largest crowd in Athletics history.

The win moved the Giants, who have won five of eight, within two games of idle Los Angeles in the NL West.

Snow, who went 2-for-4 with a walk, had a two-run single in the fifth and a two-run double in the ninth. He is hitting .400 with nine homers in 15 interleague games.

Barry Bonds hit his 32nd homer, a solo shot in the ninth.

Rockies 4, Angels 1

Harvey Pulliam hit a two-run homer and rookie John Thomson pitched eight strong innings as visiting Colorado won its seventh straight.

The loss dropped the Angels two games behind first-place Seattle in the AL West with a month left in the regular season. Anaheim has lost five of its last eight.

PACKERS NOTCH A SLOPPY WIN OVER BEARS

GREEN BAY (AP) — The Super Bowl champions were out of sync, sloppy and susceptible on offense and defense.

Luckily for the Green Bay Packers, none of that seeped over to their maligned special teams.

Bill Schroeder had 160 return yards and set up all three of rookie Ryan Longwell's field goals in

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Sampras, Seles crash out of US Open

No. 1 men's seed loses to Petr Korda in five sets; Spirlea beats Seles

NEW YORK (AP) - Monica Seles is gone from the US Open, the latest big name to tumble from the tournament.

The No. 2 seed seemed to be getting her game back to the level in which she once dominated women's tennis. But yesterday she was no match for the sparkling play of Irina Spirlea.

The Romanian won 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (10-8), 6-3 to reach the semifinals. Spirlea, the No. 11 seed, fought off one match point in the second-set tiebreak and is now in the semis of Grand Slam tournament for the first time.

Seles' streak of reaching the final at the National Tennis Center came to an end. She won the year's final Grand Slam tournament in 1991 and '92 and was runner-up to Steffi Graf the last two years. She didn't play in 1993 and '94 when she was recovering from a stabbing.

Coupled with Petr Korda's upset win over two-time defending men's champion Pete Sampras and Graf's skipping the US Open because of surgery, Michael Chang is now the only player still in this year's field who competed in last year's title matches.

"I see Andre Agassi or Michael Chang winning it now," said Sampras, who for the first time since 1994 will not be playing on the second Sunday of the US Open.

Both Chang and Agassi hoped to move a step closer to that goal yesterday in their fourth-round matches. Chang was scheduled to meet Frenchman Cedric Pioline, and Agassi was slated to face 13th-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia.

"Everybody has a chance," Petr Korda said during practice today.

Earlier yesterday, No. 10 Marcelo Rios pounded his way past No. 7 Sergi Bruguera 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 and Sweden's Magnus Larsson downed South Africa's Wayne Ferreira 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 to gain quarterfinal berths.

Spirlea excelled in every phase of the game, hitting 75 winners to just 41 for Seles. The smooth-stroking Romanian had nine aces and lost her serve just once, in the sixth game of the opening set.

That put the two back on serve since Spirlea had broken Seles' serve to begin the match.

Spirlea took a 5-3 lead in the first-set tiebreak, but Seles, showing flashes of the game that took her to No. 1 in the world, ripped off the next four points to take the lead.

All Spirlea did was raise her game another level. Sometimes she hit a backhand slice; once in a while she would hit it with topspin.

Her forehand found the lines with depth, keeping Seles pinned behind the baseline. And while her groundstrokes sparked, Spirlea was not afraid to volley, winning 31 points of her

45 forays to the net. It was just another step up the ladder of recognition for Spirlea. Earlier, she had eliminated one of the most talked-about youngsters, Anna Kournikova, and fifth-seeded Amanda Coetzer.

Now she is one step from Sunday's title match.

American hopeful Venus Williams was set to play Sandrine Testud of France late last night. Larsson reached the US Open for the second

quarterfinals at the Australian Open in January when he lost to Chang.

Sampras won the last two men's singles crowns at Louis Armstrong Stadium in the National Tennis Center. Korda on Monday made sure he didn't make it three in a row, this time in the new 23,000-seat stadium.

The 15th-seeded left-hander from the Czech Republic pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the year's final Grand Slam tournament, knocking off the top-seeded and No. 1-ranked Sampras 6-7 (1-7), 7-5, 7-6(7-2), 3-6, 7-6 (7-3).

"I had my chances, but he's always played me tough," Sampras said of Korda, remembering a five-setter the two played at Wimbledon.

"I give him credit. I mean, he raised his level when he had to. And Korda had to. Sampras fired 58 winners, including 24 aces. And when he went up 3-0 in the final set, he appeared ready to capture his 18th consecutive US Open match.

Korda, however, had other plans.

"I'm trying to hit the ball over the net and to the other side.

"That was my only strategy," Korda said. "But when Pete is serving hard, well, it's very difficult to hit the ball over the net. That is really what happened in the fourth and the beginning of the fifth set."

Neither player could enforce his will. Yet at times, each seemed to be on the verge of doing just that. But an ace by Sampras or rifle-shot of a forehand was answered just as emphatically by one of Korda's cross-court backhands that unwarily found the inside of a sideline.

A match that was delayed twice by rain came down to the final-set tiebreaker - roulette, Korda called it.

Sampras started the tiebreaker with a weak forehand into the net, then fell behind 4-0 when Korda ripped a backhand cross-court pass.

The last of Sampras' aces made it 4-1, but Korda came right back with an ace of his own, his 15th. A few points later, Korda closed it out with a service winner.

Korda's victory, his first in six matches over Sampras since the 1993 Grand Slam Cup, ended Sampras' bid for a third Grand Slam tournament title this year - he won the Australian Open and Wimbledon - and the 11th major of his career, which would have put him one behind career leader Roy Emerson.

"It kind of reminded me of my match against Alex Corretja last year," Sampras said. "I ended up winning that and winning the tournament. This time I lost. Maybe what goes around comes around."



Pete Sampras (Reuters)



JUBILATION - Petr Korda jumps for joy after advancing to the quarterfinals following his five-set defeat of Pete Sampras. (Reuters)

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Rome awaits Olympic nod

Eternal City exudes confidence in final days before Friday's announcement

ROME (Reuters) - Drive past the Foro Italico on the banks of the river Tiber and you would think Rome had already won the right to stage the 2004 Olympic Games.

The graceful Olympic stadium, revamped for the 1990 soccer World Cup finals and used each year for the high-profile Golden Gala athletics event, gleams in the sunshine.

Olympic and Italian flags flutter outside the functional, well-kept headquarters of the powerful Italian National Olympic Committee.

Classical white marble statues of athletes - all rippling muscles and Olympian idealism - gaze down serenely on to the clay courts where, each year, Italy hosts one of the world's most prestigious tennis tournaments.

The Foro Italico, set against pine covered hills on the northern fringes of the city, represents the best of Rome's Olympic bid.

Drive back into the city center and plans to host an event the size of the Olympics seems profoundly ill-conceived.

Cars and scooters clog Rome's cobbled streets, buses negotiate bewildering one-way systems and droves of tourists pack squares and restaurants from morning to night.

The only thing eternal about "the Eternal City," cynics say, is a journey from A to B through its labyrinthine heart.

On the one hand, Rome is a rich, stylish, modern metropolis with sports venues its rivals would be hard-pressed to match. On the other, it is an ancient, crumbling museum of a city, which at times seems barely capable of coping with its own 20th-century problems, let alone those which a 21st-century edition of the Olympic Games would inevitably bring.

Of the five bidders, Rome is the only one to have hosted a post-war Olympic Games (1960), a world athletics championships (1987) and a World Cup soccer final (1990).

Organizers say that, as a consequence, 79

Stockholm, Cape Town accused of breaking rules

Olympic chiefs have accused Stockholm and Cape Town of breaking their rules by offering gifts to officials who vote on the venue of the Games.

A senior IOC member said yesterday that the IOC had expressed both cities about Olympic rules in letters sent just days before the IOC votes on the venue of the Games in Lausanne on Friday.

Stockholm has been accused of offering free furniture to IOC members while Cape Town has allegedly offered the wives of IOC members free trips to Switzerland for the vote.

Both the Swedish and South African bidding committees immediately denied that they had offered bribes to members.

percent of the venues required for the 2004 Games already exist.

But then there is the question of the Olympic Stadium, which questioned Roman know-how. Commissioned for \$70 million it was finally completed for \$220m, just in time for the World Cup.

But the 2004 committee has worked hard to convince the world that this time things will be different.

"We've spent \$8.5 million on our candidature, almost all of it from sponsors," Rome's mayor Francesco Rutelli said.

Athens has spent \$21.0m - a third of it from sponsors - while Stockholm and Cape Town have spent \$25m each and Buenos Aires \$20 m.

A recent opinion poll found 76% of Romans backed the bid. The government has allocated 2,750 billion lire (\$1.5 billion) for the public works required, much of which would be spent on improving transport - a sensitive issue after the fiascos of the 1996 Atlanta Games.

If it gets the go-ahead for 2004, Rome plans to equip itself with an "Olympic Ring."

This would be a third lane around the ring road linking four key sites - the Foro Italico in the north, the proposed Olympic village and media center in the east, the Fascist era EUR complex in the south, and Rome's Fiumicino airport in the west.

Fine projects, the bid's opponents say, but not enough to cure Rome of its late 20th-century ills. "Even the pope said recently Rome was a difficult place to live practically and, as a result, spiritually," says Cristiano Brughitta, spokesman for the small but well-organized Campaign Against the Olympic Games in Rome.

The Pope doesn't take the bus to work like I do so if he's finding it a struggle there must be something wrong."

Perhaps the key player in these final period of frantic Olympic lobbying will be Primo Nebiolo, Italian lawyer and veteran head of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and leading advocate of Rome's bid.

Nebiolo had his hands ostensibly tied at the athletics world championships in Athens this month, having to support both the IAAF event and Rome's Olympic bid.

Now he faces no such divided loyalties.

IOC suspends Ecuador

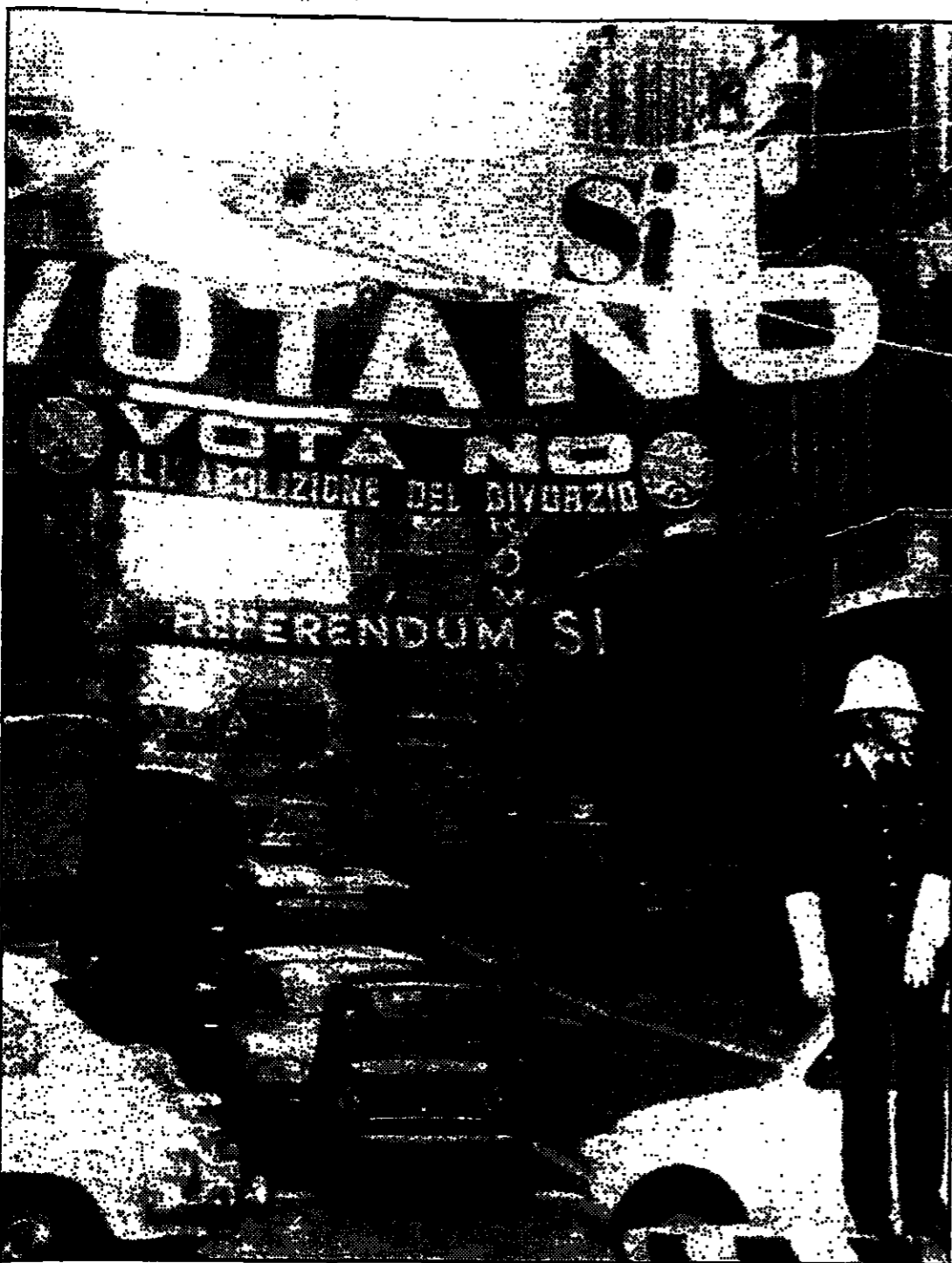
LAUSANNE (Reuters) - The International Olympic Committee has suspended Ecuador from the Olympic movement apparently because it is unhappy with the way it is running its National Olympic Committee (NOC).

The IOC said yesterday that it had

talked with the country's IOC member Agustin Arroyo and announced the suspension saying it was "in the best interest of the Ecuadorian sport

movement and its athletes in particular." The decision will not stop athletes from Ecuador taking part in international events at the moment.

But it is likely to prevent the country having a say in the running of international sport and could affect the IOC funding they receive. The IOC is believed to be unhappy with the way that Ecuador is managing its NOC responsibilities.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME - Traffic jams bottle up city center.

Aussie authorities embrace one-day cricket changes

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australian officials have approved radical changes to the laws of one-day cricket, including the use of substitutes, in an attempt to make the game more exciting.

The Australian Cricket Board said the experimental rule changes to the national one-day cricket competition would take effect from the 1997-98 season.

The changes, which will not be used in international fixtures, include the use of 12 players in each team and new restrictions on fielding.

Teams in the Australian states competition will be allowed to select a pool of 12 players for each match. Only 11 will be eligible to bat and bowl, but the extra man can be substituted at any time, as a bowler, batsman or fielder. Previously a 12th man could only be used as a back-up fielder for an injured player.

The rule means teams can select an extra batsman and a specialist bowler as substitute, or choose five specialist bowlers and bring a pinch hitter off the bench.

"One-day cricket has probably become stereotyped in the last couple of years and anything that can generate interest has to be good for the game," New South Wales state coach Steve Small said.

"One-day cricket is a good money spinner and we have to keep it going as well as looking for more entertainment."

FA ponder Diana tribute match

LONDON (Reuters) - The English Football Association said yesterday they wanted to organize a charity match for landmine victims as a tribute to Princess Diana.

"It is at its initial stage and is something we are looking to pursue," a spokeswoman said.

England manager Glenn Hoddle said he hoped the match could be held, although it might have to wait until next year due to fixture problems linked to England's World Cup qualifying campaign.

"We may have to see out our World Cup qualification first," Hoddle said. "But we would certainly be in favor of a match for the benefit of the victims of the Bosnian landmines, a cause she believed in."

England drop Ferdinand England yesterday dropped defender Rio Ferdinand from their squad for a World Cup match next week against Moldova after the teenager celebrated his call-up and was then

caught drink-driving.

"The England coach Glenn Hoddle has been informed by West Ham United of a drink-driving incident involving Rio Ferdinand which the player deeply regrets," the Football Association said.

Ironically, he was expected to take the place of defender Tony Adams, an Arsenal player who was once jailed for a drink-driving offence.

If selected, he would have been the youngest England international since Manchester United's Duncan Edwards made his debut aged 18 years and 183 days against Scotland at Wembley in April 1955.

Ravaneli dropped by Italy Unsettled Italy striker Fabrizio Ravaneli has been dropped from the squad to face Georgia next Wednesday despite being released by his English club Middlesbrough at the request of Italy coach Cesare Maldini.

FIFA adds cannabis to banned drugs

CAIRO (Reuters) - FIFA agreed yesterday that cannabis should be included on its list of banned substances.

Soccer's world governing body also announced at a meeting in the Egyptian capital that it would carry out inspection visits to Bhutan and Palestine, who have applied for FIFA membership. An updated report on Gibraltar's request for membership will be received in December.

"Among seven applications for FIFA membership, those for Bhutan and Palestine will be subject to a FIFA inspection visit later this year, while the December meeting of the executive will receive an updated report on Gibraltar," it said.

It also said it would conduct a study of the status of Hong Kong, which was handed back to China, to determine whether the Hong Kong Football Association retained its status as an independent association.

SCOREBOARD

National League Soccer: Yesterday's result - Hapoel Beersheba 1, Maccabi Petah Tikva 1.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Of Livia

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The right to see Fred Astaire

By IRENE LACHER

Long after the curtain fell on dancing legend Fred Astaire's career, his audience remains devoted to his memory. But when people think you're messing with their icons, watch out.

Astaire's widow, Robyn, has found herself embroiled in controversy over the way she has handled her guardianship of his image.

In the 10 years since Fred's death, the storybook romance between the world's greatest hooper and the first great female jockey, 46 years his junior, has produced a dark epilogue. Daggers have been drawn over the way Robyn Astaire has sparingly and expensively — parceled out approval for the use of clips of his classic films.

The furor was ignited when she prevented the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington from using Fred Astaire clips for its televised tribute to Ginger Rogers in 1992 — the same honor Astaire had received in 1978. Meanwhile, Robyn Astaire's pricey demands for the use of Fred's clips held up the 1994 MGM film anthology *That's Entertainment III*, according to sources close to the production.

Then when Fred was seen dancing with Dirt Devil vacuum cleaners in commercials during Super Bowl breaks this year, the anti-Robyn din grew louder. Critics accused her of hypocrisy, saying she was selling out Fred's image to pad the war chest she used to protect it. All along, she has been vilified — a rare distinction for anyone so close to the pantheon of old Hollywood stars.

When the Dirt Devil commercials began appearing, TV journalists "would stop reporting the news and start lambasting me," she says. "They were saying, 'Fred never would have okayed this.' Wait a minute. They don't know me and they sure as hell don't know Fred. I'm his wife. His closest confidant."

Robyn, perplexed and dismayed by her public image, says she is harshly misunderstood and is simply carrying out Fred's dying wish that she maintain the premium value of his life's work.

Not all suitors to the throne want to sell vacuum cleaners. Some are documentary filmmakers, who say they have been widely discouraged from including Astaire in anthologies about Hollywood's golden era. Astaire's business representative, Thomas A. White, denies that Robyn routinely bars the way for filmmakers. "Lots of documentarians have been approved for television," he says, without providing examples. White says she screens every request — including those for commercial uses — and judges

them according to their artistic merit.

While Astaire wants to control all uses of film clips, her battle may finally have backfired. A federal appeals court recently ruled that a company that makes instructional dance videos didn't need her OK to use movie clips for its Fred Astaire Dance School series. The court said such videos were covered under the state's exemptions from an estate's control. Astaire is fighting the decision.

Some documentarians say they may be emboldened by the ruling, which may give them more legal clout in using Fred's image without paying high fees. If they're not, the price paid by Fred's estate may be higher than anyone intended: obscurity.

Even Turner Entertainment, which holds the rights to most of Fred's movies, cringes at the difficulty of getting its hands on clips so it can promote them with new shows about old Hollywood and other original programming.

"It's very unfortunate because part of what we're trying to do is expand the classic movie audience and bring it to new generations," says Tom Karsch, senior VP for Turner Classic Movies. "What saddens me is there will be a generation of people growing up who think Gene Kelly was the No. 1 dancer in Hollywood."

Fred left Robyn the jewel of his estate — the right to manage his intellectual property and buff the sheen on his artistic legacy.

In short, she claims the rights to his film clips, while Turner Entertainment controls the complete films. Astaire insists she has a clear understanding of her role as custodian of Fred's artistic legacy.

"We had many, many discussions," she says. "He was worried that after he was no longer around he'd be taken advantage of, and he'd just been through hell with infringers. I promised him I wouldn't let that happen. He just said, 'I trust you implicitly.'"

After Fred's death, Astaire and her lawyers and advisers swooped down on commercial ventures feeding on his image — unauthorized purveyors of Fred Astaire jewelry, cologne, tuxedos, even condoms.

"It's a moral issue with me," says Robyn. "I see some of these older, well-known actors struggling along, not knowing where their rent is going to come from. Their pictures are being shown every day, and once in a while people will use an excerpt and the person who created it gets absolutely nothing."

Astaire says she gave the nod to Dirt Devil because the company granted her artistic control and because Fred himself was no stranger to commercials. During his life, he appeared in ads for Chesterfield cigarettes and the



That's entertainment: Fred Astaire and his most famous dancing partner, Ginger Rogers, in the 1936 movie 'Swing Time'

now-defunct Western Airlines, among others. "I know Fred would have done it," she says. "I didn't change his work. All I did was substitute in each frame one of Fred's

props for one of Dirt Devil's products. He'd take anything as a prop and dance with it. I think they're well done and people love them." Meanwhile, the jury is still out

on the access Fred Astaire will have to the imaginations of future audiences. Says Robyn Astaire, "I'll never let people forget about Fred, and I

don't think that I would even have that control. Fred is out there to stay. He's too special to the world. He belongs to the world." (LA Times)

In need of vision

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra is one of our most important orchestras despite playing most of its concerts far from the madding crowd of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. It presents its annual concert series all over the country, bringing the joy of classical music to kibbutz members on the periphery who do not have practical or financial means to attend the concerts of the major orchestras in the cultural hubs of Israel.

The KCO presents a basic repertoire, focusing on several choral masterpieces each season, usually with disappointing choirs. This season it will perform Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* ("The Creation") and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, together with works by such composers as Schubert, Beethoven, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Mozart.

Contemporary music, aside from the obligatory Israeli compositions which the KCO plays regularly in a dedicated and devoted manner, is rarely part of the repertoire.

So why does no one hear about the KCO? The reason is simple.

As important as the orchestra's work is, its quality is often questionable. In the various times I have heard the KCO over the past three seasons, the artistic level of the performance was rather embarrassing, and it seems that music director Doron Solomon is not able to raise his musicians above mediocrity, which is a real pity. Under the right baton, this orchestra could very well become the leading middle-size chamber-music orchestra here. All it takes is the right leader and more visionary programming.

On paper, the coming KCO season, beginning October 23, looks highly impressive. Hanna Tzur joins her evocative Ramat Gan Chamber Choir for a program of Puccini, Schubert and Dvorak; Yotv Talmi leads the orchestra in the Mendelssohn violin concerto, as well as in Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, which I fear will prove too much for these musicians.

Yuri and Yoni Gandelsman are the soloists in Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* for violin and viola, and extraordinary Austrian soprano Eva Lind comes for a Viennese evening to end the season.

I look forward, above all, to the premiere of Haim Perlmutter's new flute concerto. The visit of the Warsaw Chamber Opera with Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* could be fun, as long as it's better than the Polish singers' recent local visit with Mozart's *Zaide*.

The KCO plays concert series in Nahariya, Beit She'an, Ein Hashofet, Ein Hahoresh, Givat Brenner and Dorot, as well as selected concerts at Tzavta in Tel Aviv.

Nazi propagandist receives cinematic award

By TOM TUGEND

An award bestowed in Los Angeles on German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl has been sharply criticized and has revived the debate on her role as a Nazi propagandist.

In a larger sense, the appearance of the 95-year-old Riefenstahl

bears on the question of whether art can be separated from politics and morality, and on current attempts in Europe to recast the history of the Nazi and fascist eras.

Riefenstahl's long career ranges from silent screen actress to recent underwater photographer, but her name is invariably linked to her

1934 film *Triumph of the Will*. Shot at a Nuremberg party rally, it is considered one of the world's most notorious propaganda documentaries, in which she used brilliant cinematic techniques to glorify Hitler and the Aryan ideal.

The achievement award was given to Riefenstahl last Sunday by Cinecon, an obscure but well-respected national group of movie buffs devoted to restoring and screening old films.

The event in Glendale, a Los Angeles suburb, drew 1,000 enthusiastic guests and "was kept under wraps until the last minute in an effort to circumvent some of the anti-Nazi protests that usually occur at her appearances," the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

The play succeeded, though the *Times* noted that Riefenstahl's presence "was expected to generate outrage among LA's Jewish community." That outrage was expressed the following day by Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"Hitler personally picked Riefenstahl to produce *Triumph of the Will*, and we actually use segments of the film at our Museum of Tolerance to illustrate how the German people were sold on the Nazi regime," he said. "Without the Riefenstahls of the world in the 1930s, the Shoah might not have happened. I would consider her an undicted co-conspirator," Cooper added.

Attempts to rehabilitate Riefenstahl fit into a larger pattern emerging in Europe to whitewash the past and revise history, said Cooper. As an example, he pointed to the recent book by Italian historian Fabio Andriola, *Mussolini: Hitler's Secret Enemy*, which seeks to recast the Italian dictator as an opponent of the Fuehrer and Germany.

Cooper also noted that a Hamburg art gallery opened a retrospective of Riefenstahl's work on August 19. In a story on the



Leni Riefenstahl at Nuremberg in the 1930s

exhibit (under the subhead "Her Camera Adored Swastikas"), the *New York Times* reported that German officials absented themselves from the opening.

"Despite Riefenstahl's proclamations that she was merely an artist, the Germans know exactly what the implications of her rehabilitation are," said Cooper.

Riefenstahl spent three years after World War II in American and French detention camps as a Nazi sympathizer and underwent a de-Nazification process.

In interviews, she has consistently cast herself as a dedicated artist, too wrapped up in her work to realize the crimes of the Nazi regime.

Despite her proximity to Hitler and top Nazis, she has claimed absolute ignorance of the Holocaust, saying that "I did not know what was going on. I did not know anything about these things." In other interviews, Riefenstahl insisted that she had "never uttered an antisemitic phrase and was never a racist."

Miles behind: Electric Davis finally on CD

By J.D. CONSIDINE

At the time, people thought he was crazy. In the early 1970s, when Miles Davis was releasing the albums *At Fillmore*, *Live/Evil* and *In Concert*, a lot of his fans thought he had lost his way, if not his mind. Davis had become the avatar of new movement, dubbed fusion or jazz-rock, and the big question among jazz fans was whether this was a revolutionary move or merely revolting.

It started in 1970 with *Bitches Brew*, a moody, electric double album that quickly became the era's biggest-selling jazz album. Given the amount of ground jazz had lost to rock and soul in the 1960s, you'd think the critics — much less other musicians — would have cheered the achievement.

Instead, it brought catcalls and consternation. In some ways, the reaction of the jazz community to electric Miles recalled the controversy Bob Dylan sparked in 1965, when he turned up at the Newport Folk Festival with an electric guitar. Dylan, though, was merely denounced for having "sold out," whereas Davis was damned by the critics, accused of betraying the very art of jazz.

Even today, the issue is still far from settled. Apart from *Bitches Brew*, Davis' electric albums from the Seventies were mostly ignored in the rush to put jazz on CD, passed over in favor of more conservative classics, such as *Kind of Blue*, *Porgy and Bess* and *Round About Midnight*. Just recently, five mostly live albums from that era have been released on CD in the US. Two of them — *Black Beauty* (Columbia/Legacy 65138) and *Dark Magus* (Columbia/Legacy 65137) — had previously only been available as Japanese imports; the others — *At Fillmore* (Columbia/Legacy 65139), *Live/Evil* (Columbia/Legacy 65135) and *In Concert* (Columbia/Legacy 65140) — have been out of print for more than a decade.

Although Davis' experiments

unleashed a whole new wave of jazz acts, including such spin-off groups as Weather Report, Return to Forever and the Mahavishnu Orchestra, it also led to a lot of over-amplified drivel. To a certain extent, the missionary zeal of Wynton Marsalis and his ilk stems from the notion that they may yet save jazz from the sins of fusion.

It's not hard to understand why Davis' 1970s recordings put traditionalists in such a tizzy. Since the birth of bebop, back in the 1940s, jazz had been built around a vocabulary of complex harmonies and swing rhythm. Chord changes were of particular importance, because they provided the raw material for each improvised solo. As most jazzmen saw it, the more chords there were to work with, the more leeway a soloist had.

Davis, though, did away with all that. Many of the tunes he gave his post-*Bitches Brew* bands were built around just a couple of chords; some merely relied on a repeating bass line to suggest the basic key, reducing the specifics of chord structure to a few vague suggestions.

Still, it's hard to hear these albums today without recognizing the music as jazz, and these reissues chart the course of Davis' explorations. *Black Beauty* makes a useful starting point. Recorded April 10, 1970, at psychedelic rock's home field, the Fillmore West in San Francisco, it catches Davis a mere month before *Bitches Brew* was released.

As such, he and the band — saxophonist Steve Grossman, electric pianist Chick Corea, electric bassist Dave Holland, drummer Jack DeJohnette and percussionist Airo Moriza — bounce between the rigorous overdrive of semi-electric work like that on the album *Filles de Kilimanjaro* and such moody, funk-inflected fare as "Miles Runs the Voodoo Down." It's a heady mix, particularly when Davis shifts from the wash-wah-driven "Willie Nelson" into the airy melancholy of the old standard, "I Fall In Love Too Easily."

"Live/Evil," recorded at various points through 1970, pushes that fondness for stretching the music's limits even further, although for different reasons. A mix of live and studio recordings that were threaded into album form by Davis' producer, Tom Maceo, its selections were originally considered too fragmentary to stand up as full-blown compositions. But to ears accustomed to the slice-and-dice approach of hip-hop and modern rock producers, *Live/Evil* seems remarkably prescient.

Funk fans will be particularly drawn to "Sivad," which opens with Davis playing trumpet through a wah-wah pedal, and includes a brief organ-and-guitar interlude dope enough to have been sampled by the Beastie Boys. But it's "Funky Tonk" that makes the album a classic, particularly Jarrett's meandering, gamelan-flavored electric piano solo.

By contrast, the music on *In Concert* and *Dark Magus* is much less accessible.

By 1972, when *In Concert* was recorded, Davis had an entirely new band, one that included tabla and electric sitar, as well as synthesizer and electric guitar. It made for much more colorful playing — check the textures on the dreamy, 27-minute "Ife" — but, apart from the loping polyrhythms of "Rated X," lacked the dynamism of previous live albums.

Fortunately, *Dark Magus* more than makes up the difference.

Taken from a 1974 Carnegie Hall performance with a larger version of the band that would turn up on the albums *Agharta* and *Pangea*, the music is dense and driving, with communal groove as strong as anything in Davis' catalog. Granted, the sound is a bit uneven: Michael Henderson's bass gets lost in a wash of cymbals at the beginning of "Willi," and it's often difficult to distinguish between the three guitarists. But the playing is strong enough to make you wonder why it took so long for the album to see US release.

(The Baltimore Sun)

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Jubilee year
Boris and Tatyana Leibovich and their son, Yevgeny, arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday from Siberia, one of 120 CIS families going to kibbutzim in a Jubilee Year project for new immigrants.

Case dropped against Lieberman

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The case against Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, over his role in the Bar-On Affair, will be closed for lack of evidence, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein announced yesterday. He said that the case against businessman and Likud activist David Eppel would also be closed for the same reason. He noted that there were still suspicions against the two, but that they would not stand up in court. The police had investigated the alleged part played by the two in the short-lived appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general for the past six months. The Likud last night described this as "a political investigation." Shortly before Pessah, Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel announced that they would indict MK Aryeh Duri for his part in the affair. Duri will soon

receive an answer with regard to a hearing on this matter, the Justice Ministry said last night. But, at the time, Rubinstein and Arbel announced that there was insufficient evidence to indict Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi. They said, nevertheless, that further investigations into the roles allegedly played by Lieberman and Eppel were necessary. "The investigation against me... should have been closed for lack of guilt and not for lack of evidence," Lieberman said, adding he was surprised at the wording of the announcement. "With all due respect [to Rubinstein and Arbel], I know what I did in connection with the investigation," Lieberman said, "and I know that my deeds were flawless and reject any accusations against me." Lieberman said he had instructed his lawyer to study the material

and see what legal action he could take. Eppel said that it was a "sad day for me - this is the second time they are doing this to me. A crime has been added to a crime. I had to threaten the state attorney until she made an announcement and I asked that she either clear me completely, or charge me." Eppel said he had not been called "even once" to the State Attorney's Office. He declared that "the truth will out" when he takes Channel 1 to court on charges of libel. He charged that the investigation was politically motivated. In a statement released last night, the Likud said: "Justice has come to light... A mountain was made out of a molehill. A political investigation has come to an end. Despite hopes and efforts, no charges could be brought against people in the Likud. This affair should teach people to be doubly careful when opening investigations against public figures."

WEATHER
Golan 15-25
Nefza 23-29
Tiberias 20-34
Afula 19-32
Samaria 19-27
Tel Aviv 22-29
Jerusalem 17-26
Beersheba 18-31
Dead Sea 25-35
Eilat 24-37

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	L	C	F	W	F
Amsterdam	14	57	21	70	cloudy
Berlin	16	61	26	80	cloudy
Buenos Aires	08	46	12	54	clear
Caracas	21	70	25	80	clear
Chicago	18	64	29	84	clear
Copenhagen	18	64	24	75	cloudy
Frankfurt	19	64	31	88	cloudy
Geneva	18	64	23	73	rain
Helsinki	07	45	20	68	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	82	30	86	cloudy
Jakarta	27	81	22	72	clear
London	16	61	26	80	cloudy
Los Angeles	13	55	22	72	clear
Madrid	15	59	29	84	clear
Moscow	07	45	13	55	cloudy
Montreal	07	45	13	55	cloudy
New York	22	72	28	82	cloudy
Paris	15	59	21	70	cloudy
Rome	19	66	24	75	clear
Stockholm	15	59	19	66	cloudy
Sydney	28	82	33	91	clear
Tokyo	18	64	24	75	clear
Toronto	18	64	24	75	clear
Vienna	16	61	26	80	clear
Zurich	16	61	25	77	rain

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 19, 20, 37, 45, and 49, and the additional number was 15. In the daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the ace of spades, 10 of hearts, 8 of diamonds, and ace of clubs, and the 7 of spades, 7 of hearts, 8 of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

PM condemns nursery school arson

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday condemned the torching of the nursery school in Mevasseret Zion, affiliated with the Reform movement, saying "it was a very serious, revolting and abhorrent act, and under no conditions should arguments on these issues result in any kind of violence," according to a statement released by Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer called the arson "a terrorist act." He said that no one had the moral, legal, or ethical right to use any kind of violence against an educational or any other institution. Hammer called for anyone who could help apprehend those responsible to do so, and for them to be punished to the fullest extent of the law. "Disagreements must not be permitted to spill over into violence. The State of Israel is a democratic state, and anyone who wants to have the right to open a nursery school based on his or her views,

he said. Hammer ordered the ministry's Development Authority to do all it can to make sure the kindergarten is ready for operation as soon as possible. "The best answer to those who committed this arson will be the restoration of the kindergarten in as short a time as possible, and we will make a special effort to ensure that the children will be able to learn there shortly," he said. The Development Authority has located an available building for the nursery school. MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) praised Hammer for his condemnation of the arson, and asked him to call on the leaders of the haredi and Orthodox communities to openly condemn it. Cohen, who lives in Mevasseret Zion, said that the arson was an act of vandalism and that if steps are not taken to uproot the spiritual and political beliefs behind it, those responsible will start burning children. Eli Wohlgelemer contributed to this report.

Schools in Acre, Arab sector remain closed

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Schools in Acre, except special education institutions, remained closed for the second straight day yesterday. Representatives of local residents and the municipality are demanding that the city be recognized as a Development Town A, which they say they were promised, and that NIS 8 million be transferred to the town's educational system for enrichment programs. The strike is keeping home some 13,000 pupils, from kindergarten through high school.

Schools in the Arab sector remained closed yesterday for the second day of a three-day strike called to protest against the lack of proper educational facilities, particularly a shortage of some 1,500 classrooms and special education programs. Parents of pupils in the Samed Comprehensive School are also keeping their children home, with the parents association saying there are severe safety problems, including a wall in a nearby structure they say endangers pupils. Education Ministry officials denied this claim.

Bucharest envoy discusses Romanian workers' plight

By JAY BUSHINSKY

The conditions in which Romanian contract laborers work in Israel were discussed at an introductory meeting Monday between Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur and Bucharest's newly-appointed ambassador to Israel, Gheorghe Popescu. Officials said it was not the main issue on the two diplomats' agenda, however. The workers' status has become a controversial issue in both countries of late. A Romanian publication contended that the working conditions verge on slave labor and the Israeli press has carried lurid stories of the alleged gang rape of an Israeli veterinarian by four Romanian nationals. In a memorandum sent simultaneously to six of the directors-general of six government min-

istries, Bentsur wrote: "Without relating to the social aspect of the existence of foreign workers in such great numbers, the dependence on cheap labor, the exploitation and the absence of proper wages and living conditions as well as the lack of social services and the creation of virtually autonomous islands populated by foreign nationals in Israel's cities, I believe we must examine this phenomenon from a political standpoint as well." Bentsur said the foreign ministry opposes bilateral agreements on the import of manpower despite requests from various countries to that end. Bentsur urged his colleagues to prevent exploitation, mistreatment and cheating of foreign workers and said the foreign ministry was seeking to minimize the harm being done to Israel's image by their situation here.

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